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DOMESTIC TOPICS.

THERE is such a remarkable degree of unanimity in the country about foreign affairs, just now, that we have the less excuse for neglecting those questions in which we are all more directly interested—questions of internal and domestic importance. It is true that even they react upon our foreign relations, by their connection with the general scale of our national greatness. But still, it is possible—leaving the Congress and the French Emperor on one side for the time—to consider home subjects of discussion by themselves. And this we now propose to do.

The absence of political excitement this autumn regarding internal questions is very noticeable. We hear of few Reform meetings, though it is certain that the Government must be preparing their Reform Bill. No doubt this is partly the result of the surfeit which we had of the subject not long ago. It is a subject on which there is little that is new to say. And, what is important, the classes most likely to be affected by reform are more and more given, of late years, to questions less abstract—industrial and social inquiries connected with their various occupations. Read the reports of the "strike" meetings, for instance. You did not find it laid down, as it would have been by an older school of demagogues, that the working man was oppressed by the peculiar nature of our institutions, simply as political institutions. The whole view of the Potter class was economical, however bad the economy. They talked of labour and capital. But this is division of mankind quite independent of politics. It exists equally in republics and monarchies, and would have come to be a subject of discussion in England if we had never had a Norman conquest or a feudal system at all. The leaders of the "strike" wanted the day's labour reduced to nine hours—one hour less, by-the-by, than that fixed for Parisian labour by the French Republic of '48. But we do not remember that a single man of them has connected his grievance as a labourer with those political grievances which it has always been the interest of factious men to connect with everything that, by ill-luck or ill-management, ever annoys mankind.

We welcome this as a good sign of the working man's condition, however much the "strike" may otherwise have revealed among them faults of knowledge or of temper. Agitation is out of fashion, at present, in all quarters. The Financial Reform movement is no exception to the remark. Audiences gather to listen to Mr. Bright; but that is because Mr. Bright is a speaker, and would "draw" even if—like Sir Barnes Newcome—he were to lecture on the "affections." The class is exceedingly small who seriously believe that our taxation is levied with a direct eye to oppressing the poor or providing for the rich. Human nature is not so Machiavellian as all that. Taxation, like other things, grows gradually, and alters

its character from generation to generation. Our ancestors levied customs very early, because to make things pay when they enter a country is one of the most obvious ways of getting money. It is easier to know where to get it by laying it on articles which pass in the face of day from one place to another than by drawing it from wealth which may be disguised or hidden. In India, at this moment, it is almost impossible to get at the rich classes directly. And we confess that Mr. Bright's great "direct" scheme, however fair

reasoners, how childlike and ignorant, the poor are—how likely they are to think a thing hard in one shape which they do not in another. It is strange, and worth remarking, that most revolts caused by taxes have been caused by direct ones.

Yet we are not arguing that our indirect taxation is half so light as we hope to see it, or that we ought not to abolish it (if only for the expense of its collection) whenever opportunities occur. Taxes there must be, in some shape, to pay the interest of the debt and to pay the expenses of our internal

government and external security. All, poor as well as rich, are concerned in these objects, for the debt is owed to tens of thousands, and external order and safety from enemies are the indispensable conditions on which alone that industry by which the mass live can exist. Well, how reform our taxation? We should say reform it as we do the Constitution, by gradual and safe changes. But something has been done towards this within the present generation: many disagreeable imposts have been taken off, and extra expenses have been met by an income-tax which, though it presses on many who are not wealthy, at least does not press on the great body living by manual labour. We hope to see lighter duties on sugar and tea. But, when it is said that these press in an immoral manner on the many, let us consider exactly what the statement means. In the first place, all consumers pay it, and, if we allow the well-to-do classes to include all who have £300 a year to spend, the amount consumed by them and their households must be enormous. No doubt the "million," the most numerous class in every country, pay more as a whole; but they do not pay more individually and in proportion; for the duty on half a pound of tea is, of course, exactly one sixth of the duty on three pounds. They feel it more, we shall be told. This is equally true; but that is because in all ages of the world poor men are not so comfortably situated in any respect as rich men—a fact which the State, as a State, cannot alter. It is an excellent reason for keeping taxation as moderate as possible; but the remark has no tendency to enable us to dispense with taxation.

Mr. Bright says that all dominant classes are selfish, and will squeeze other classes. If this be true the poor would tax the well-to-do selfishly when they got the chance, and a topsy-turvy in politics would not make the country a bit honester than it is. It is easy to see, however, that it would make things worse otherwise. At present the mass—poor individually—have an immense income in wages to spend among them, part of which the State taxes indirectly for necessary purposes, among others, for maintaining many hundreds of thousands of them in the State service as soldiers, sailors, police, &c. Suppose their leaders (and we have had a taste of their choice in that line in the strike) to meet the question of taxation by taxing only the



THE HARD WORD.—(FROM A PICTURE BY E. HUGHES.)

in appearance, seems to us impracticable. In as far as it would let income escape, it is unjust; though what reason have we to suppose that it would be more liked than the income tax? Property is a most extensive word, though in common parlance we use it as if it implied something large. When a poor man hears that "property" is to be taxed, he thinks of land, houses, ships, &c. But surely furniture is property, and, if you are going to tax everybody, the cottage will have to pay as well as the mansion. At present the poor pay in their tea, sugar, tobacco, &c.; and, though they virtually feel it in the price, we doubt whether they would not feel more a system which should take it from them in hard cash. Abstract theorists forget what indifferent

prosperous instead. This would not make the poor rich, though it would have a strong tendency to make the rich poor. It would frighten away a good deal of capital into better fields of action. It would fetter the action of what was left, and check employment immediately. Finally the plan would prove insufficient to meet the national revenue, and when it was pushed farther and farther would lead to national convulsions.

We do not suppose Mr. Bright, who is of the capitalist class, to have any wish to push things to extremities; but the tendency of his speeches is to make people's views extreme. And we believe that the best way to get taxation reformed is to set about the task moderately.

This is by far the most interesting of our domestic topics, but there are others of importance remaining behind.

THE HARD WORD.

Is there not a song in some Scandinavian, or other northern, language commencing "Oh! teach me not to read and write"? Pathetic request! But let any person who is only acquainted with Greek, Latin, French, German, Spanish, and Italian, endeavour to master the Hebrew or the Slavonian alphabet, and he will then be able to form some faint idea of the misery the child must suffer who is first commencing to spell words of two or three syllables. Fortunately, boys and girls have a strong love of imitation, or they would probably never learn to read at all. As it is, the silly little things are as ambitious of the power to read as they are, some years later, of the capacity to smoke, or waltz, or make love; and thus millions of men and women grow up with sufficient acquirements to justify them in subscribing to the illustrated newspapers of their country. In Mr. Hughes's picture, bearing the title which stands at the head of this article (and of which we publish an engraving on the preceding page), the little girl who has met with the "hard word" is evidently being taught by her sister. There is true sororal affection in the manner of the big girl towards the little one; and the little one is good also, or she would think more of the tempting apples before her than of the "hard word" whose difficulties her kind instructress is endeavouring to make her overcome. The teacher is evidently a girl not only of skill but of sense; for, besides giving lessons in reading, she can make apple-puddings. There are the apples in the basin. She has only stopped peeling them for an instant that she may help her little sister to spell "circumstance," or "lamentation," or some other equally terrible polysyllable. She soon, it will be observed, is wonderfully clever. Not a speck of dust is on the floor, and there are flowers on the window-sill. The big sister then has moral as well as intellectual qualities—and, thanks to these and to the deep and tender interest that she takes in her young pupil—there can be no doubt whatever as to the latter's progress. Soon she will find no "hard words" to impede her in the course of her studies, and before very long she will be able to read the "Illustrated Times."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor and Empress returned to Paris on Sunday. The Juge d'Instruction has decided that there is no ground for further proceeding in the affair of M. Girardin's pamphlet, "Napoleon et l'Europe." The copies seized by the police have been returned. The *Moniteur de la Flotte* states that the navy is to be reduced by the discharge, on December 31, of all warrant officers and sailors who may have completed forty months of service in all, whatever may be their length of service since the last levy.

ITALY.

News from Palermo to the 27th of November states that the Commander Maniscalco, Director-General of the Sicilian Police, had been stabbed whilst walking with his wife and children in the Place of the Cathedral. The wound inflicted was very serious, but, probably, not mortal. The assassin, who was well dressed, escaped. Fears were entertained that an insurrection would follow, but tranquillity prevailed.

The *Staffetta* of Turin announces that the Envoy of Queen Victoria henceforth is accredited in the rank of a "first-class" Ambassador at that Court, on the footing of the great European capitals.

The session of the Council of State at Rome has been opened by the President, Cardinal di Pietro. The financial Consulta was received on the 3rd by the Pope; and Cardinal Savelli, its President, frankly explained the wishes of the Assembly. We are told "His Holiness replied that he would consider what steps were necessary to give satisfaction."

AUSTRIA.

In some of the Austrian papers it is said that Baron Brenner, who is now Austrian Minister at Athens, will be sent to Turin, but men in office say that Lieutenant-General Count Paar is likely to go there again.

Much alarm is felt at Vienna at the rapid progress of disaffection in Hungary. The most urgent appeals have been made to Count Walewski, it is said, for the purpose of keeping all mention of Hungary out of the Paris papers.

Mysterious intelligence comes from Vienna that a very high functionary has been discovered to have embezzled and defrauded to a large extent in commissariat and other war sinews during the Lombard campaign, and is now supposed to lurk at Hamburg, proposing to emigrate to the land of the free in another hemisphere.

PRUSSIA.

The Prussian *Moniteur* contains the appointment of Lieutenant-General von Roon as Minister of War.

The *Schlesische Zeitung* states that five of the Prussian Ministers of State have declared in favour of admitting Jews to all public functions, while the other five Ministers are opposed to such a change.

DENMARK.

A new Ministry has been formed provisionally by M. Rottwitt, as follows:—Councillor Rottwitt, President of the Council and Minister of Justice, and also *ad interim* for Holstein and Lauenburg. Baron Blixen Fineck, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and also *ad interim* for Schleswig. Major-General Thestrup, Minister of War and Marine. The Councillor of State, M. Westenholz, Minister of Finance. The Chamberlain, M. Jessen, Minister of the Interior.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

The Turkish Government has withdrawn the troops stationed in Thessaly, on the Greek frontier, and transferred them to Marasti.

The Turkish and Montenegrin Boundary Commission arrived at Losina last week. It was thought that its labours would be completed in two days.

AMERICA.

General Scott has arrived in the island of San Juan, and has superseded Harney, who is said to have left the place in much disgust. General Scott has been instructed to disavow, on the part of the Washington Government, the forcible act of General Harney in taking possession of the island, and at the same time to declare that San Juan should remain neutral property, as it was before, and until a proper deliverance has been obtained on the question of right. The dispute, therefore, may be considered at an end, and it has lost all its bitterness and danger at present. The British naval force has been withdrawn, all but the steamer *Satellite*.

Extraordinary excitement exists in Virginia arising out of the Harper Ferry affair. On the 17th ultimo alarming accounts were forwarded from Charlestown to Richmond to the effect that a movement for the liberation of Brown was hourly anticipated, and that various barns and sheds had been fired by confederates of the incarcerated martyr. This

exciting news produced the effect that was to be anticipated. Large bodies of troops were moved upon the scene of contemplated hostilities, the Governor himself accompanying them. The panic throughout the State suddenly attained the wildest stage. Indiscriminate arrests were made, the eye of partial justice fixing itself more especially upon the pedlars, who are to be found in every village and upon every road. We are now told that the moving cause of all this alarm was the accidental conflagration of a haystack!

As in the United States there is the institution of a Court of Appeal in criminal cases, Captain Brown made an effort to get his case reconsidered. On this occasion he had to make his last appeal to a Virginian tribunal. The five Judges of the Court of Appeal unanimously decided that the verdict and sentence were just. It is reported, however, that the execution was put off from the 2nd to the 10th.

Hostilities between the Buenos Ayreans and Urquiza continued. The squadron of General Urquiza had forced the passage near the Island of Martin Garcia, and a battle had been fought between Urquiza and the army of Buenos Ayres. The Buenos Ayreans were beaten, and were in full flight towards the town, leaving the country open to Urquiza, who was marching towards Buenos Ayres.

INDIA.

On the 22nd of October the Governor-General made his triumphal entry into Lucknow, and received and decorated all the Princes and higher nobles of Oude. Two days after a grand durbar was held, attended by the majority of the Talookdars of Oude. After the usual formal greetings, the Governor-General rose and addressed the assembled landholders on the restoration of their estates, the grants of which had been delivered to them the day before. It is said that the assembled talookdars appeared satisfied; and well they might be. They are restored to their estates *en masse* and granted a perpetual settlement; in other words, the rate of taxation is fixed for ever, and all the increase of rental sure to follow our rule will go, as in Bengal, to enrich them, instead of the State.

Dwarka has been evacuated by the Waghers, who availed themselves of the darkness of the night to cut their way through the outlying pickets of her Majesty's 28th Regiment on the 30th ult.

A campaign is about to open from Neemuch against a body of rebels said to be 5000 strong, encamped in a mud fortress upon the banks of the Chumbul. The numbers are, doubtless, exaggerated. In Bundelcund, in the fastness of the hills and jungle of which Feroze Shah and a body of rebels are still hiding, the campaign has been already opened.

From Nepal it is very confidently rumoured that the Nana is dead; but considerable suspicion, of course, hangs over a story which it is so much the interest of the miscreant to get believed.

CHINA-JAVA-BORNEO.

A destructive fire took place at Hong-Kong on the 20th. Property of the value of 100,000 dollars burnt. The *Fates*, Hartley steamer, was lost on the rocks eighty miles from Hong-Kong. The crew and treasure were saved. The ship *Inkerman*, of London, had also been lost. From Canton we learn that the Anglo-Chinese customs had been opened.

A telegraphic despatch from Batavia, dated Oct. 23, says:—"The second expeditionary force for Boni left yesterday. Great fears are entertained that the natives of Java will rise. Every European is well armed. Much excitement prevails amongst the natives, owing to their forced on board ship as Coolies for Boni. A conspiracy to murder the European residents has been detected at Danda."

From Sarawak we have this news:—"The Datto Patingi Gapoor has been seized for plotting with the Dyak chiefs to murder the Europeans. The Datto is to be banished to Singapore. Quiet is restored."

THE AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

THE CONGRESS.

The invitations to the Congress, it seems, have as yet only been issued to those States which took part in the Vienna Congress of 1814; that is to say, to the five great Powers and to Spain, Sweden, and Portugal. When these States have accepted the invitation, and when the Congress will thus be constituted, the three Italian States, Naples, Rome, and Sardinia, will be called upon to make their appearance at its table. We gather from some articles in the Continental press that it is not yet quite settled that the Congress will hold its sitting at Paris. It seems that the Prussian Government has objected that Paris is not quite an appropriate place. The 5th of January is the day named for the meeting.

The Paris correspondent of the *Spectator* says, writing on Saturday: "England and France are on the point of coming to an understanding as to the course they will adopt. Of course there are concessions on both sides. They will both advise, it is believed, that no addition be made to the present possessions of Victor Emmanuel, but that an independent kingdom of Central Italy be established. Such is the advice that France and England will offer."

According to the *Nord*, Prince Gortschakoff and Count Kisseleff will represent Russia at the Congress; Count Walewski and M. de Banneville, France; Count Rechberg and Prince Metternich, Austria; Count Schleinitz and Count Pourtales, Prussia; M. Mon, Spain; M. de Pavia, Portugal; M. d'Aelsward, Sweden; the elder Count Ludolf, Naples; M. des Ambrois, Piedmont. Lord Cowley and Lord Wodehouse will probably represent England; but Lord Clarendon, Sir Hamilton Seymour, and Lord Elgin are also talked of. The report that the Pope had already consented to be represented at the approaching Congress, and that his Holiness had appointed Cardinal Antonelli first plenipotentiary, is without foundation.

CENTRAL ITALY.

The *Pays* believes itself in a position to state that the difficulties between Piedmont and Tuscany on the subject of the Regency of M. Buoncompagni are not yet removed. But the Turin papers represent the matter as settled; and that a central administrative power for the Duchies and Legations has been instituted, and put into the hands of Buoncompagni, who will take up his residence at Modena, with the title of Governor-General of the League of the Provinces of Central Italy. The central military authority is, however, to remain at Bologna vested in General Fanti. Buoncompagni is to govern with the aid of a Ministry thus constituted:—Ministry of the Interior; Ministry of Worship, Pardon, and Justice; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Public Instruction; Ministry of Public Works. Ministers without portfolios may make part of the Ministry. The functions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and War will be intrusted to two special sections immediately under the Governor. A Legislative Commission is to be formed, charged to examine and prepare the laws and decrees necessary to bring the legislation of the States into harmony with Sardinian legislation. This Commission will sit in Bologna.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

Sacconi is represented to have been treating at Compiègne about the conditions of the Pope's representation at the European Congress; and, as far as the reports go, he met with more encouragement on the part of the Imperial Government than was expected.

A new letter of Garibaldi has made its appearance. He calls upon his friends not to let the thought of a national crusade for an instant depart from their minds, and in which he again promises his co-operation when the hour of action shall have arrived. It appears that an interview lately took place between Garibaldi and the Empress Dowager of Russia at Nice.

The *Corriere Mercantile* of Genoa publishes two documents found in the archives of Bologna, and referring to acts of the Government before the war in Italy. In the first Cardinal Bernetti gives orders that the political prisoners shall be removed to distant and unhealthy localities; and in the second, Cardinal Spinola directs that the bastinado shall be employed as a means of correction for children sent to prison on the charge of vagrancy. These discoveries should be regarded with suspicion.

A Venice letter of the 2nd in the *Nord* of Brussels gives a lamentable account of the situation of that province. Trade and industry are described as being at an end, and the expense of lodging the troops has completed the disastrous position of the inhabitants. Formerly the troops were concentrated in the towns and fortresses, but since the war they are spread over the country also. Country mansions and farm-houses have been converted into barracks, and the communes have to pay the cost. A notice from the superior authorities, to which a retroactive effect as far back as the 1st of January has been given, declares that the Government will only pay the communes the expense of soldiers' "lodgings on the footing of troops on the march, and not of troops in garrison." This last act, it is stated, has completed the financial discomfiture of all the Venetian communes.

DIFFICULTY WITH MEXICO.

Some time since Mr. Otway was recalled from his office of Chargé d'Affaires to the British Government in Mexico. During his absence the British subjects were protected by the French Consul, M. Gabriel. Since then the exactions of the Mexicans have been insufferable. A despatch, dated Mexico, November 2, was lately posted in the Liverpool Underwriters' room to the effect that two sailing-vessels entered the port of San Blas, laden with goods for Baron Forbes, at Tepic. They were, however, immediately seized by the orders of Coronada. Information was at once conveyed to the Captain of H.M.S. *Amethyst*, who instantly demanded the restoration of the captured ships from Coronada. The Captain's request was met with a flat refusal, Coronada declining to give them up. The British Captain knew his antagonist, and, without further ceremony, launched his ship's boats, and gave orders to cut the ships out of the harbour. On the boats approaching the citadel opened fire, which was returned with vigour from the guns of the *Amethyst*. In the meantime the boats proceeded up the river to where the vessels lay moored, and, after some resistance, succeeded in cutting the two ships out from under the guns of the citadel of San Blas. Messrs. Rothschild, Baring, Huth, A. Gibbs and Sons, and other houses of eminence, have signed an address to Lord John Russell begging that the British Government will throw its protection over British interests in Mexico, and put a stop to those outrages which have been growing more and more numerous of late. The latest fact is the seizure, by Marquez, one of the Generals of the Miramon party, of £120,000 in treasure belonging to French and Spanish subjects, whose Governments will probably demand immediate satisfaction.

A FRENCH VIEW OF ENGLISH POLICY.

The political article, the "Chronique," in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, just issued, has made some stir; and to those abroad who denounce England because she does not put herself forward as the champion of "ideas," and who see in the prosperity of Great Britain only the signs of her decay, because she will not entangle herself in the squabbles of Europe, a dispassionate perusal of this article may be useful. M. Forcade is the writer. In one place he says:—

Unfortunately, of the two political courses which are open to England, the best known, or, to speak truly, the only one known in France, is the bold, obstinate, warlike, and invading policy of the past, which is personified in us in Chatham and Pitt. Such is the policy which involved England in the struggles of the Continent, which inspired her during those struggles with an implacable hatred against us; and which made her the soul and the most energetic arm of the coalitions formed against France. At the time when England practised this policy of hatred and of war she kept exclusively for herself the principles of her free institutions, and felt not the moral influence which obliged her to consult the general interests of liberty in the choice of her friends, and of her enemies, abroad. At that time she did not know those scruples which honour nations as well as individuals, and which save them from certain alliances which, perhaps, might serve their interests but would detract from their principles. At that time England cared much more for the co-operation of Sovereigns than for the friendship of peoples. At that time she regarded Russia as her traditional ally, notwithstanding the partition of Poland. She counted upon Austria as her Continental army, without heeding whether Austria oppressed Hungary or Italy. She even sought the friendship of the Pope, if she found at the Court of Rome one enemy the more against France. English statesmen in those days saw in European policy but a duel of power between France and England; with them everything gave way to the necessities of the struggle. They sacrificed interests of good government of European States to the necessities of the Sovereigns who gave them the resources to those States. They sacrificed the good administration of the finances of England to the necessity of subsidising our enemies. They sacrificed the social and political progress of their own people to the wish of lowering France. Such is the English policy which our own history has but too much taught us; such is the policy which has marked in our history the two fatal dates of 1763 and 1815.

By an aberration of mind, which excites at once laughter and sorrow, such is the policy which certain Frenchmen—who fancy themselves patriots, and who even pretend to be the only patriots going—exalt as the only great policy suited to England! If you listen to these persons, England has fallen only since she ceased to follow it! They mock at her, or pity her, because she has no longer at her head Chathams, Pitts, and Castlereags! Let us, however, examine what is the policy of this decayed England—the policy which only deserves our contempt or our pity. The policy which has generally prevailed in England since 1815 to the present day is, strange to say, little known, and less understood, on the Continent. The development of that policy has, nevertheless, extended over a sufficiently long space of time to be thoroughly appreciated. We do not hesitate declaring that, considered in all its bearings, it is the wisest and justest which has ever yet been practised by any European nation. It is the true peace policy of a free people. Since 1815 the English have carried out three plans—namely, the reform of their institutions, the settlement of their finances, and the material and moral improvement of the people. We say nothing of their political reforms because they are best known. And surely the nations of the Continent, which for the last forty-five years have passed through so many revolutions only to retrace their steps, have no right to speak with disdain of the ability and success with which, while preventing revolution by reform, England has secured her internal political progress. The financial policy of England has not been less able nor less successful in its twofold character—economical and social. Dismissed at the prodigality of the great policy of Pitt, and which saddled her with a debt of more than twenty milliards, she has had a wholesome horror of the system of subsidising foreign armies which Pitt had employed so lavishly. When peace came England formed the resolution of no longer falling into such ruinous practices; and, as those burdens which weighed so heavily on her were the consequence of the part she had played in the affairs of the Continent, England, repelling the cause with the effect, declared firmly against every system of foreign policy which tended to draw her again into the political complications and wars of the Continent. This feeling soon spread from the commercial classes to the masses, as well as to the aristocracy; it ended by influencing statesmen of all parties, and it became that of the entire nation, as was seen in the beginning of the present year, when the unexpected war in Italy produced a struggle between the political sympathies and the interests of the English people. In a financial point of view the first effect of this policy has been this—the public debt of England ceased to increase; it has, in fact, been reduced. In 1815 England had to pay 747,000,000 of interest on a borrowed capital of twenty-one milliards. In 1858 England paid no more than 720,000,000 on a borrowed capital of twenty milliards. This fact is the more remarkable that at the same period the capital of the debt in France increased from three milliards 140,000,000 to seven milliards 800,000,000, and the annual interest from 156,000,000 to more than 390,000,000. It was a good deal not to increase the debt, or even to keep it within bounds; but the English did not content themselves with this negative advantage. With characteristic perseverance they applied themselves to reducing their expenditure, and by doing so gave a fresh pledge to the world of the sincerity of their pacific intentions, inasmuch as they effected these reductions at the cost of their naval and military establishments. Nay, more; at the very moment they reduced their expenditure they undertook on their budget of receipts, on the system of taxation which fed their revenue, the ablest and the most fruitful experiments, of which the results serve as a lesson to all other nations. The success of these first essays in this way became the starting-point not merely of commercial reforms suited to economical principles, but of a social labour which powerfully seconded the material and moral advancement of the popular classes.

M. Forcade then shows the benefits that have accrued to France in consequence of this change in the policy of England from 1815 to the present day. He observes:—

France has gained two signal advantages from this policy. Thanks to the alliance with England, she has extricated herself gloriously from the awkward question of the Holy Places; and flung back on Russia the check which the Emperor Nicholas meant to inflict on us. Thanks to the alliance with England, we have been enabled to undertake and carry out to the

and, against the wish of Europe, the war in Italy. The peoples, and France in particular, have derived great profit from the policy of England. As for England herself, she has doubtless obtained from that same policy the essential advantages which she expected from it. She has been enabled to modify her internal institutions without revolutionary convulsion; she has seen her population nearly doubled within half a century; she has made colossal accumulations of capital, she has multiplied her colonizing powers, she has raised her labouring classes to a condition of comfort, to the sentiment of human dignity, to the efficacy of her use of popular rights. But, while performing this sensible, logical, and fruitful task of a free people, England has paid for the good which she did herself by the neglect of her defence. She reduced those defensive establishments, which are rather the accidental instruments of the power of a nation than the permanent cause of that power. England doubly disarmed—disarmed with respect to arms by incurring the disavowal of Courts for the sympathy she has shown towards peoples—disarmed in a military point of view by making subordinate to the respect for human liberty the recruiting of her army and her fleet, and by effecting from her laws everything that resembles the conscriptions or the inscriptions prevailing on the Continent.

In presence of this contrast of the two political systems, which were those of England—the one which was predominant previous to 1815, the other which has prevailed since—we have not only to ask ourselves which of them is preferable as regards French interests, but we have ourselves to decide which of them England ought definitely to pursue or to abandon. It is we who have, in some measure, to choose between the two. Those are the true terms of the political question which is proposed to us at this moment. England, already uneasy as to her security, is no doubt mistaken (but between great nations it is not permitted to discuss the reason of such anxiety), but is arming after her own fashion; that is to say, by appealing to public opinion and to the voluntary co-operation of her citizens. While regretting that such a feeling should have entered the minds of the English people, we believe we have nothing to say against it; on the contrary, we wish that England may have built a sufficient number of plated ships-of-war and of "rams"—have sufficiently fortified her coasts and her arsenals—have sufficiently organised companies of riflemen, or volunteer artillerymen, to believe herself in safety at home, and to feel that she does not exist, as her journals say, on sufferance, or by tolerance. When less alarmed she will be less sensitive, more clear-sighted, and more just. Nevertheless, with the knowledge which we possess of the political temperament of the English people, we do not disguise the fact that it will be difficult for them to support inactively for any length of time the expenses of any extraordinary armament. The English have no taste for expenditure which consumes capital unproductively. They do not feel the indifference which Continental nations despotically governed do for the waste of public property. They never forget that capital is accumulated labour—they know that capital swallowed up in military armaments is labour destroyed, and which passes off in smoke. If this capital be the produce of taxation, they calculate the burdens which are fruitlessly heaped on the laborious classes; if it be the produce of a loan, and that it increases the public debt, they become uneasy at the labour which will be thus fruitlessly and for ever imposed on future generations to pay the interest. Manufacturers and merchants think that tranquillity for the present is not sufficient for them; they have need of a long confidence to devote themselves to the operations of the spirit of enterprise. England armed will be no longer in any alarm, but she will hasten to put an end to a state of things which appears to her to be uncertain and precarious. It is then that she may appear dangerous to us, if, by any imprudent folly, she is provoked to return to the system of Chatham and Pitt. . . . Finally, as for our own persistence in the ideas which we lately promulgated, we would see the most efficacious guarantee of peace in the revival of an internal political life which would interest and associate France in the liberal development of her institutions, and, by those means, turn her away from sterile preoccupations which are perilous to our foreign policy.

THE EMPEROR AND THE MERCHANTS.

As we announced last week, four merchants of Liverpool addressed a letter to the Emperor of the French, begging to be informed whether he intended to conquer England, or what his views were with regard to that country. These gentlemen have received the following reply:—

Palace of the Tuilleries, Nov. 30.

To Messrs. Shaw, Melloz, Irving, and Blackwell, Merchants at Liverpool. Gentlemen,—You have addressed yourselves direct to the Emperor "to know what were his intentions as regards England." Great fear and great confidence alone could explain this step. On the one side, you are possessed by the imaginary trouble which appears to have seized your country with the rapidity of an epidemic; and, on the other, you reckon on the loyalty of him from whom you desire a reply. It was, however, easy for you yourselves to give it, if you had calmly examined the true cause of your apprehensions; that cause you would have found only in all those rumours created among your fellow-countrymen by the obstinate propagation of the most chimerical of alarms; because, until now, under whatever circumstances, there has not been a word or an act of the Emperor which could permit a doubt of his sentiments, and, consequently, of his intentions towards your country. His conduct, invariably the same, has not ceased for one moment to show him as a faithful and irreproachable ally.

That which he has been will (I declare it to you in his name) continue to be—witness again to-day the approaching community of distant perils between your soldiers and ours.

Thus, henceforth, fully reassured, oppose an error too much spread. Great nations should esteem, but not fear, each other.

Receive, gentlemen, the expression of my distinguished sentiments,
The Secretary of the Emperor, Chief du Cabinet,

MOCQUARD.

MR. ROEBUCK AND THE PRINCE DE JOINVILLE.

At a meeting held by the Liberals of Bath last week in honour of Mr. Phin, Mr. Roebuck delivered a speech chiefly remarkable for the following passage:—

We acknowledged the second branch of the Bourbons. They were driven out of France in 1848, and they were received in hospitable England. Sheltered by her mighty wings, they were safe. When they put their feet on the shore of England none could harm them. What was the gratitude of these illustrious personages? Why, one of these illustrious exiles actually made plans of the southern shores of England, pointing out where we could be best attacked, and sent these plans to the Ministry of France, saying that though an exile he was still a child of France, and would be willing to enter into the ranks of those who were to carry French principles across the Channel. That was told me by a nobleman now dead, whose name I don't think it right to mention, and who said that he himself had seen the letter. He told me that circumstances had then occurred which would render it not a politic proceeding to mention it at that time, and I never have mentioned it until the present time. The present is the proper time for mentioning it, when we are asked to entangle ourselves in European disputes, and to risk again the blood and treasure of England to obtain gratitude like this.

The Prince de Joinville denies the charge, in a letter to the *Times*:—

CLAREMONT, December 2, 1859.

Sir,—Your number of to-day contains an extract from a speech delivered a few days since by Mr. Roebuck, in which I am also clearly alluded to that I feel obliged to reply to it.

Mr. Roebuck's assertion is entirely devoid of foundation. I have not made any plan of the coasts of England; I have not drawn up any scheme of attack against this country; and lastly, need I say that I have not sent anything to the French Ministry?

I may add that, although I still consider myself a "child of France," I should be the last to wish that "the principles" which now rule her should "pass across the Channel."

I appeal, Sir, to your sense of justice for the insertion of this letter in your next number, and I beg you to accept my compliments.

PR. D'ORLÉANS, Prince de Joinville.

Every English paper published on Saturday was seized in France on account of this letter. None of the French papers allude to it save the *Débats*, which has a few words on the credulity exhibited by Mr. Roebuck. "We should be unable to understand how Mr. Roebuck would give credit to so absurd a story, if he had not the monopoly of attacks against all the Governments that reign or have reigned in France. This very speech, in which he has given proofs of his naive reception of every idle rumour, is so offensive towards the present Government of France that we refrained from taking notice of it."

M. LAMARTINE'S DEBTS.—The *Journal de Saône-et-Loire* of Mâcon of the 20th ult. says:—"M. de Lamartine has left for Paris. No purchaser having come forward for his estates, and the nation's subscription having only produced 100,000fr., to pay more than 2,500,000fr. of debts, M. de Lamartine was obliged to ask for time. He called all his creditors (more than four hundred) together at the Château de Montceau, and proposed to give up to them his estates, the value of which exceeded his liabilities. He also stated that, notwithstanding the insufficiency of the national subscription, he has paid to his creditors in eighteen months, out of the produce of his literary labours, a sum of 1,200,000fr., and engaged to pay in January and February next a further sum of 300,000fr., so that his debts would be reduced to 1,000,000fr. He therefore solicited the indulgence of dividing his payments into three or four instalments, hoping, he said, by labour and economy, to pay every one in full."

THE RELATIONS OF FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

An enthusiastic and densely-packed meeting was held in the Town-hall, Bridgewater, on Monday night, to hear addresses from the members for the borough (Colonel Tynte and Mr. A. W. Kinglake) to their constituents on the political topics of the day.

Mr. Kinglake's address especially was listened to with great attention, and interrupted with frequent applause. Among other things, he said it was not easy to explain how the notion of a war with France had arisen:—

It has happened to me, I think I may say, to know something of the people of France; to know something of the army of France; and to know a little—mostly by reading, and partly by a little personal acquaintance in old times—of the Emperor of the French. Now, the people of France, we all know, are a proud and brave people, who would rise like one man to avenge anything like an injury or insult to that great country. On the other hand, there are a great many people in France who would take a good deal of pleasure in hearing of the successes of a short and triumphant war. That is the case in most countries. But, upon the whole, I believe the mass of the population of France are an industrious and peaceful people. You may have seen the other day a curious anecdote in the newspapers, which I do not advert to merely because it is an anecdote, but because I really and truly think that it was a good illustration of the character of the French people. It was said that a peasant presented to the Emperor a large turnip—what do you think?—turnip soup, and he presented this turnip soup with a request that his son might be let off serving in the army. Now, I think that humble gift of the French peasant, and that simple request which he made to the Emperor of the French, were a true illustration of the great majority of the French people. They want to live in peace and enjoy the humble food to which they are accustomed, and not to be called upon to serve in foreign wars. That I believe to be the feelings of the French people. Then, if we go to the army, no doubt there are there several corps of men of very brave and enterprising character—we speak of them mostly as the *Zouaves*—men who enter the service as volunteers, who are as brave as tigers. But when you come to look at the great bulk of the French army—when you come to look at the troops of the line—on find there exactly the peasant class of whom I have been speaking. You go back to the poor, humble peasants of the turnip soup, and they are men, as far as I am able to judge, as harmless and unoffensive, if only let alone, as are to be found in Europe. I have passed a good deal of time with the French army. I have been with them in the bivouac, I have been with them on the march, I have been with them on board ship. I have seen them in almost all situations you can see troops, and I think I can undertake to say, whatever the *Zouaves* and crack regiments may be, that a more harmless and unoffensive body of men than the troops of the line is hardly to be found, perhaps, anywhere in Europe. So much for the people and the army. I now come to the French Emperor. The French Emperor was a guest in this country; he has a friendly feeling towards England; he has always been a faithful ally to this country, and at present he has no quarrel with us. I have come to this, that the French people are, generally speaking, peaceful; that the army is not especially warlike, and that the French Emperor is what I have just described. Now, why is it that we are all in a state of anxiety? I proceed to tell you. The cause of our anxiety is this—that the government of France is centered in one man. All the resources of 37,000,000 of a warlike people are centered not in a Parliament, not in a Council of State, not even in that corps of statesmen which we are accustomed to call a Ministry, but in one man. That is the circumstance which, in my mind, makes all the difference with regard to the safety of France as our neighbour. If the government of France were vested in a Parliament, or in an ordinary, organised Council of State, we should know that a body of that kind would be pursuing the interests of France, and that unless it should be for the interests of France to go to war with us we might safely rely upon it that peace would continue; at all events, we should be sure that we should have due notice of the change, for it would be impossible that in a day, a week, or a month, an ordinary organised Council of State, such as France possessed before the last Revolution, could suddenly pass from a state of perfect amity to a state of hostility with England. But in the state of things which actually exists you have the vast army of France, the enormous pecuniary resources of France, the navy of France, all placed under the power of one human being. The Emperor of the French not only commands all the armies of France, not only commands the navy of France, but he has the power of marching almost the whole of the commercial navy of France—marching them like soldiers, to serve in the military navy of the country; and we all know, also, that he has succeeded in inventing a financial system which enables him to borrow the earnings of the country, and to raise almost any amount of money at a very short notice, and without the intervention of the ordinary capitalists who used to be employed for purposes of that sort. It comes to this—that you have sitting, as it were, in his library, a thoughtful man who is in the habit of keeping his own counsel—a man who pores over books relating to battles and wars. I recollect he told me once that he was engaged in writing a history of all the battles that had ever been fought. There he sits alone in his library, surrounded by books of this description, surrounded by plans and designs of all contrivances which human ingenuity has invented to destroy human life, and commanding, at the same time, the resources of which I have endeavoured to give you some conception. Well, then, it is very evident that this man is a dangerous neighbour. Your security, if you rest it upon the French, must repose upon the will of one man. Will you trust it to the goodwill of one man? I have received intelligence only within a few days which shows me that the Emperor has no Minister—that he does not allow Ministers to make a remonstrance to him of the most respectful kind. Then it comes to this—that you have one man, with the vast resources of 37,000,000 of people, without any Minister, governing alone, with this enormous power—not quarrelling with you, he is much wiser than that, but preparing for the eventuality of war. I say that if we were to remain perfectly passive in this state of things we should be madmen or idiots.

IRELAND.

SEDITIONS BALLADS.—The *Westford Conservative* states:—"Two lads, giving the names of Michael and Patrick Power, have been arrested by Sub-constable Ginn for singing seditious ballads. The young scapegraces had been singing a ditty in honour of the hoped-for advent of the Emperor Napoleon, to welcome whom all 'true sons of Erin' were called upon to arm, and follow 'the brave Dr. Cahill.' Several equally inflammatory and seditious productions were found in the possession of the boys, who were taken before the Mayor for examination. They were allowed to depart on promising to leave the town, and giving up their stock of ballads."

SYMPATHY WITH THE POPE.—At Waterford there has been a great Sunday demonstration on the part of those who sympathise with the Pope, held in the cathedral. Speeches were delivered of an exciting character, which quite as much turned upon the defence of the faith as upon the question of upholding Pope Pius in his temporal authority. Eight thousand persons are reported to have been present, who unanimously adopted the resolutions submitted to them. There was also held at the same time, at the Carmelite Church, Dublin, a crowded meeting of different religious fraternities in support of the same object. This agitation is likely to be extended to every part of Ireland in the course of the winter. It is to be observed, however, that many Roman Catholic noblemen and gentlemen have declined to take any part in the movement, not from any wish to see the temporal separated from the spiritual power, but simply because they do not think their religion will be served by such demonstrations.

THE PROVINCES.

PROPERLY PUNISHED.—William Wainwright was brought before the Wakefield magistrates for shooting a man named Ruddleston. A few days previously Mrs. Wainwright was attacked by two men, who followed her home and pelted the door and shutters with stones. The husband requested them to desist, but in vain. He then took a loaded gun and fired at Ruddleston, who was wounded in the thigh. The magistrates thought Wainwright was justified in what he had done to protect his wife and property. Ruddleston and his comrade were fined for the assault, or two months' imprisonment.

EXTRAORDINARY ESCAPE.—A Mr. Shaw, of Bristol, had been dining with a friend and was returning home in a fly. Presently, with a crash, the horse disappeared from before the driver. The poor animal hung suspended for an instant by the shaft and traces, but, these giving way, he fell to the bottom of a chasm some twenty-one feet deep, on the brink of which the carriage was provisionally left standing. On examination, the occupants found that the gap was caused by some new sewage works. Every effort was made to extricate the poor horse, whose cries are described as having been fearful; but all attempts during the night were in vain, and the horse was not got out until ten o'clock next morning, seriously injured.

A SOLDIER MURDERER.—John Connell, a private in the Waterford Militia Artillery, stationed in the Barrack Barracks, Gosport, has been committed on the Coroner's warrant to Winchester Gaol to take his trial on a charge of having wilfully murdered Michael O'Brien, a private in the same regiment, in a row which occurred in the barrack-yard on Friday night, the 28th ult. It appeared in evidence that Connell and the deceased (who died from the effects of a blow on the head) had been fighting, and Connell was proved to have taken a poker from one of the barrack-rooms on the night of the murder.

MR. DOUGLASS IN HALIFAX.—This well-known anti-slavery agitator, who is said to have been mixed up with the Harper's Ferry insurrection, suddenly made his appearance in Halifax a day or two ago, and, at a public meeting of the Halifax branch of the Mutual Provident Alliance, presided over by J. Stansfield, Esq., M.P., he was called upon and delivered an extempore address. He said that twelve years ago he came to England a fugitive slave. He had an idea, when a slave, that the master who held him had not so good a title to him as he had himself, and he came to the conclusion, in fact, to run away. He justified this act on his part by a very simple process of reasoning. He came to the conclusion at once that he was himself; that he belonged to himself; that his head was his head; his hands his hands; and his legs his legs; and that if he ran away on his own legs he left everybody else in possession of theirs, and did no harm to anybody. But some of his fellow-citizens declared that, if he ever set foot on American soil, he should be reduced to slavery. Under these circumstances a number of his friends in England purchased his freedom for him. And now he was a runaway again. He rejoiced that in his running away he had such a people to run amongst and such a country to run to. It was the home of the oppressed of all nations, the asylum of all who suffered from despotism in any form. This was the boast, the pride, the glory of England.

THE NOBLE ART.—Frederick Mayne (better known as the Kentish Slogger) was charged at Maidstone on Friday week with having killed Edward Millgate, another pugilist, in a prize fight that took place near Penenden Heath. After hearing the evidence of the surgeon, and other persons, the accused was committed for trial.

THE YELLOW FEVER AT SOUTHAMPTON.—A fund is now being raised in Southampton to relieve the necessities of the widows and orphans of those who died from the ravages of yellow fever brought by the steamships *La Plata* and *Tasmanian*, of the Royal Mail Company. Communications have passed between the Mayor of Southampton and the Lords of the Privy Council as to the necessity of having some place appointed for the reception of cases of yellow fever or cholera if a ship should come into port having those diseases on board.

MURDERS IN IRELAND.

THE agent on the Fitzwilliam estates in the county of Wicklow wished to square two farms held by a tenant named Boland and another named Behan. Behan had to lose some land by this arrangement, and he objected to it accordingly; the consequence was that he was served with a notice of ejectment, and on Monday week a bailiff was sent with some assistants to take possession. Behan's wife was very indignant, and, when the bailiff ordered his men to drive the stock off the farm, she appeared with a pitchfork, and asked him, "Did he think that would do?" Afterwards she was seen sharpening the prongs of the fork, and the husband invited the bailiff to feel them. Possession having been obtained of all the tenements, Boland was sent for to take possession of that part of Behan's land which it was intended at first to add to his farm. By this time there was a crowd of twenty or thirty persons collected in the field, all on Behan's side. As soon as Boland entered the field, Behan and his wife, with several others of the crowd (Mrs. Behan holding the fork in her hand), rushed upon the old man and forced him violently over the fence into the road. Behan shook him violently. Now a struggle commenced. Boland, though seventy-five years of age, persisted in his attempts to gain the field, in which he was assisted by the bailiff and his assistants, and opposed by Behan's party. At length Boland's strength gave way; he was seen to faint, was found to be dying, and soon after expired. When it was found that he was dying Behan danced and clapped his hands, thanking God that he had "struck him dead" before "he got possession." Five or six women were seen kneeling on the road praying that he might never recover, and that he might never be forgiven "in this world or the next—the priest-selling dog!" The deceased had sawyers cutting timber for roofing an outhouse, and one of the women said on coming up the road that the sawyers were "cutting the old dog's coffin." This was said before the row commenced.

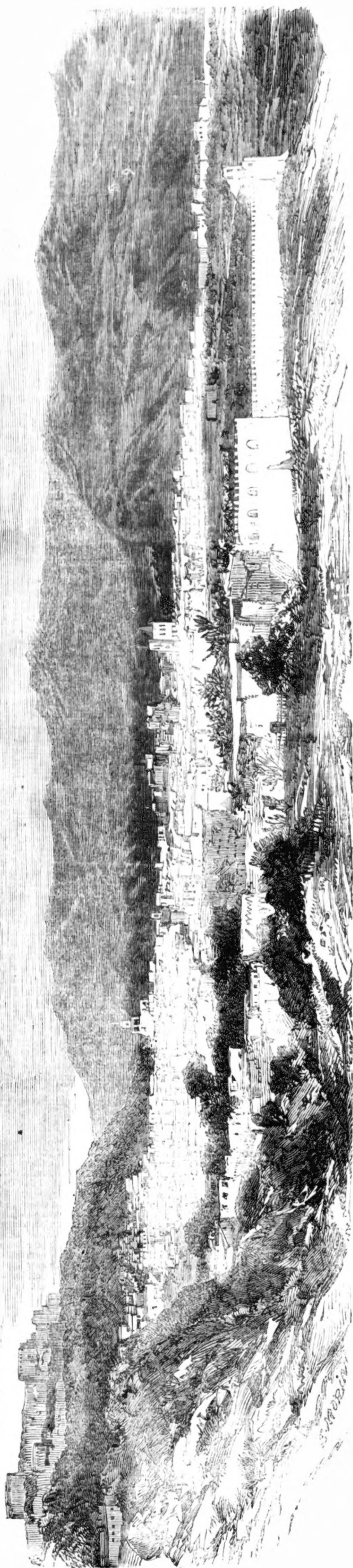
At the inquest one of the witnesses deposed that, after the deceased fell down, he saw women on their knees, saying, "He's dead! his soul to blazes! he'll never come to life!" The jury found the following verdict:—"That Michael Boland came by his death from a rupture of the heart, which might or might not be caused by excitement and violence which he received on Monday last, the 28th of November, 1859, at the hands of Richard Behan and Bridget Cullen, assisted by Edward Behan, Catherine Behan, and Mary Byrne." The six prisoners were then remitted to gaol on the warrant of the Coroner.

Lawrence Kelly, a farmer holding some 300 acres of land at Newtown, near Athlone, was on Sunday shot dead from a window while eating his dinner. He had just returned from mass. The murderer escaped.

Another dreadful affair occurred on Monday in the town of Dungannon. A constable, who had for fifteen years maintained an exemplary character in the police, had, contrary to the rules of the service, privately married. For this offence Holden was reduced to the rank and pay of a sub-constable for six months. This information was conveyed to him by a brother constable named Matthews, who was suspected by Holden of being instrumental in discovering the secret marriage. Acting upon this suspicion, Holden fell upon Matthews and shot him dead. The assassin then started off, and in his flight encountered his sub-inspector. Holden rushed upon him, and inflicted upon his head several fearful wounds with some dagger-like instrument. The inspector, Mr. W. H. Matthews, is reported to be in an extremely precarious state. The murderer then mounted his victim's horse and rode off at furious speed, and was not heard of till next morning, when he was arrested in the town of Dunalk, where it was supposed he was about to embark on board one of the steamers bound for Liverpool.

THE AMERICANS IN CHINA.—Accounts by "private hands," which the American papers now publish of the mission of Mr. Ward to Peking, give a more favourable account of the behaviour of the Chinese. One correspondent reports that the Emperor of China was very anxious to see the American embassy, and was only prevented by the Princes of the Royal family. The official *Gazette* of Peking, in reporting the proceedings in an Imperial decree, speaks in the most friendly way, and states that, although the treaty should have been exchanged at Shanghai, another course was pursued, in order to show a "nursing tenderness to the men from afar, and an appreciation of good faith and principle." The correspondent above alluded to says, after describing the signature of the treaty:—"Then came a touching scene. We had heard that two English soldiers had been taken prisoners at the attack on the forts of the Peiho, June 25, and were told at Peking by one of the Commissioners that one affirmed he was an American. He was brought into a yamen by direction of the Chinese authorities, and, dressed in Chinese costume, was placed in front of Mr. Ward, who questioned him on the place of his birth, and his nationality. He frankly admitted he had told the Chinese a series of falsehoods; he was born in Canada, and had lived a short time in New York, but had never been naturalised, or renounced his allegiance as a British subject. He had besides perilled American interests and Mr. Ward's embassy, by stating to the Chinese officials that two hundred men had been landed from the *Powhatan* and participated in the attack upon the forts. Doubtless this mendacity was practised by the young man (for he was not above twenty-five, and of good form and countenance) from the fears he justly entertained for the safety of his head. Mr. Ward, upon learning the facts, told the Governor-General that, as the young man was a British subject, though born on the frontier between the United States and the English territory, and was taken in arms fighting against the Chinese, he had no authority over him, and would claim nothing for him. Still he would regard it as a personal favour to himself if the Governor would give the prisoner up to him to be taken to Shanghai, and there delivered up to the British authorities, which was done at once, and most gracefully.

WAXING A NIGGER.—"The steam-boat that carried us down the Alabama river," says a lady writing in the *New York Tribune*, "had on board a large gang of negroes, in charge of a most inhuman driver, a second Legree in looks. My brother talked with him a little, and found his face a good index of his character. 'I flatter myself,' said he, 'that I understand managing niggers a little better than most folks do. Whipping is worn out; they know what that is, and will bear it even to death; besides, it hurts their looks if they live. They won't sell as well with their backs deeply scarred. I'll just tell you how I manage mine, and if you have any unruly ones you can try the treatment on them (supposing my brother to be a Southern man). Just take the nigger alone—the him—bind him—bare his back—and then take some sticks of sealing wax and a candle, and let the burning wax drop all over his back. He'll think he is being dissected alive! You never have to wax a nigger but once. It does no harm—only works upon him powerfully, and he never knows what was done to him.'"



TETUAN.

TETUAN, bombarded the other day by the French fleet, is the most important seaport, in a commercial point of view, which the Moors possess. The harbour is of great depth, and will allow of vessels of any draught entering. It has communication by the River Tetuan with the town, which is about three miles and a half distant from the sea. The population numbers some 40,000, and the inhabitants are amongst the most fanatic of the whole empire; its near neighbourhood to Rif making it a dangerous place for Europeans to establish a residence.

The commerce of Tetuan, which is entirely in the hands of the Jews and Moors, lies principally with Spain and Gibraltar. The most important of its exportations are woolsens, skins, soap, wax, almonds, honey, oranges, and a famous species of leech, of which the Emperor alone enjoys the monopoly. There is also a large manufactory of arms, renowned for the richness of the ornamentation on the scimitars and barrels of the long guns executed in its work-rooms.

An explanation of a semi-official character is given of the bombardment of Tetuan, to which we have alluded

above. It appears, according to this account, that the incidents occurred at a certain distance from Tetuan, at the mouth of the river which flows into the Mediterranean: some five or six miles from the town is the middle of the bay which bears the same name. There is a brick fort, faced with limestone, in the form of a tower, on the left bank of the river, with a few pieces of artillery laid so as to sweep the shore. This is the only work which defends the approach to the town of Tetuan on the sea-side, from which it is separated by a sloping ground covered with brush-wood. Admiral Romain Desbrosses, in order to exercise the seamen, sent a few of his ships to cruise along the coast. The ship of the line *St. Louis* was of the number; and, as she was in the act of returning to her anchorage, she was fired at by the fort when passing before the river of Tetuan, although the flag of the *St. Louis* was flying. The Captain, without taking notice of the insult, returned to Algiers. The Admiral, however, considered that the act required immediate and severe chastisement, and on the following day—viz., the 26th of November—he weighed anchor, and himself proceeded to the spot with the liners *Breda*, the *St. Louis*, the *Foudre* steam-frigate, and the

steam-cutter *Tiephong*. He appeared before the fort of Tetuan, and at once opened fire; and, in about three quarters of an hour, the guns of the fort were silenced.

The fighting that has already taken place does not appear to have given the Spaniards such easy victories as was at first anticipated. We have received some few particulars of the combat at Serallo. The Serallo is a little cluster of old houses, about a league from Ceuta, which the Moors of the Rif occupied, and which the Spaniards took. Echague, who commanded the first corps-d'armée, amounting to 10,000 men, wished to fortify the Serallo, and he built a redoubt. He stationed in it the Infantry Regiment of Bourbon, the Chasseurs of Barbastro, with some pieces of artillery. On the 25th (November) the garrison were a little after midday taking their dinner, when they were surprised by 800 Moors, who fell, poniard in hand, on them. The men snatched up their arms, but in an instant they saw that the 800 Moors were supported by 3000 others, who came behind. The melee was sanguinary. The battalions of Bourbon and Barbastro were almost cut to pieces, and the ground was covered with dead bodies. Echague, who observed from Ceuta what was going on, marched out in a hurry two brigades to the assistance of the troops of the Serallo. The combat lasted till nightfall. The Moors lost many men; but the Spaniards had more than 300 killed, among whom were 40 officers, and nearly 1000 hors de combat. Such was the affair of the 25th ult.

It is said that the Moors bear themselves with extraordinary audacity and persistence. They rush on with poniard in hand to the very guns and kill the men at their pieces. In the above fight it is reported that the Mussulmans even captured a gun.

On the 30th ult. there was another affair on the same spot, begun as usual by the Moors. The official dispatch says that the loss of the Moors could not be exactly given, because they carried off their dead and wounded. Then it adds, that the loss must have been considerable, for the Moors having been cut in two refused to surrender. This means, we suppose, that the Moors having been cut up, and refusing to surrender, were all killed; otherwise they would have had no loss. But in this case who removed the dead and wounded? This looks like a gross contradiction. But all the dispatches published are drawn up in the same manner, so that it is not easy to ascertain the truth.

We fancy this crusade against the infidel is likely to last somewhat longer, and cost Spain more money and men than the Government bargained for.

MILO.

MILO, or Melos, one of the larger Cyclades in the Aegean Sea, is about seventy miles north of the coast of Crete, and sixty-five east of the coast of the Peloponnesus. It is fourteen miles long from east to west, and its breadth is about eight miles. Its northern coast is indented by a deep bay which forms a natural harbour, one of the best and deepest in the Levant. The population, which was above

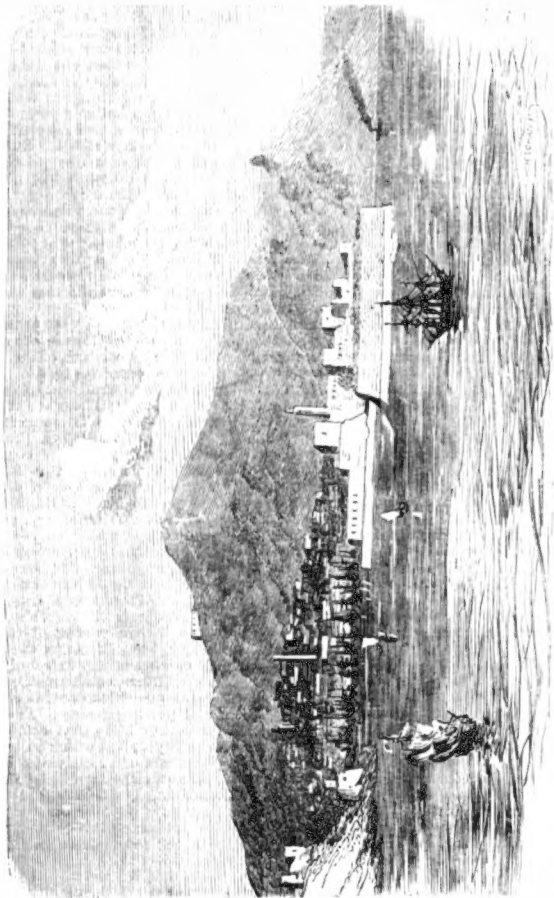
20,000 in the time of Tournefort, about a century ago, has greatly decreased. It is now stated vaguely at 7000 by Balbi, and at only 1500 by Thiersch, but this last estimate appears too low.

Melos is said to have been colonised first by the Phoenicians, and afterwards by the Lacedaemonians. During the Peloponnesian war the Athenians sent an expedition to reduce it, under the command of Nicias, the son of Niceratus, but the attempt failed. Some years later in the war a new expedition from Athens landed on the island, and, after a siege of several months, took the town of Melos, when the Athenians put to death all the adult males, and carried away the women and children as slaves, after which a colony of Athenians was sent to occupy the place. At a later period Melos, like the other Greek islands, became subject to Rome, and afterwards to the Byzantine Emperors, the Venetians, and the Turks. It now forms part of the new kingdom of Greece.

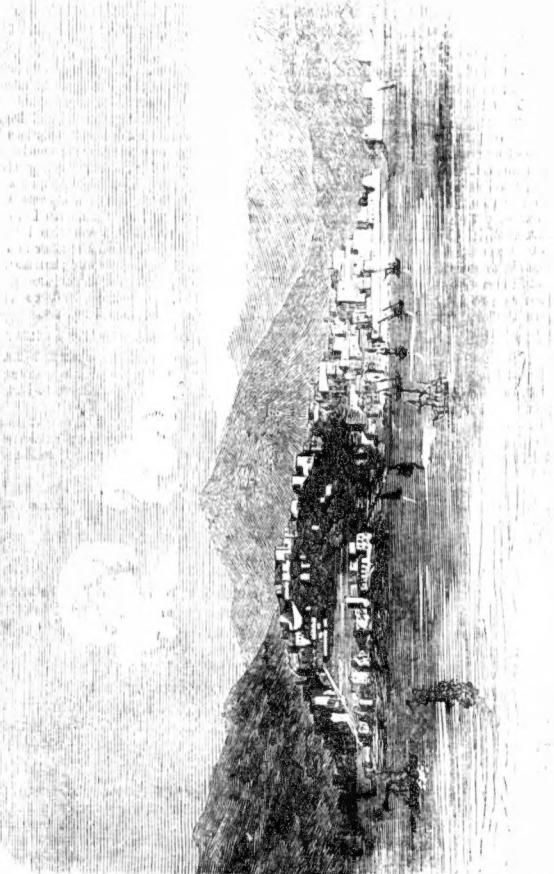
There are extensive remains of the ancient capital, Melos, near the great harbour, consisting of part of an amphitheatre, cyclopean walls, a temple of Venus, and numerous subterranean galleries. The celebrated statue of the Venus of Milo was found here, and is now in the Museum of the Louvre at Paris.

TENEDOS.

TENEDOS is an island in the Greek Archipelago, off the coast of Troas. It is said to have been anciently called Leucophrys, and to have derived the name Tenedos from Tennes, the son of Cycnus, King of Colone in Troas, who reigned over the inhabitants, and was afterwards deified by them. According to Homer, it was sacked by Achilles, and occupied by the Greeks when they retired from the siege of Troy, immediately before its capture. This connection with the story of the Trojan war has given Tenedos some celebrity. It was colonised by Aetolians from Amyclae in Laconia, under the command of Peisander and Orestes. Little mention is made of Tenedos in ancient history. It was independent in the time of Cyrus, King of Persia, but was made subject to Persia after the revolt of Ionia, in the time of Darius; it was afterwards a tributary of Athens; and, in the fourth year of the Peloponnesian war, took part with the people of Methymna against the rest of the Lesbians. Pausanias states that the Tenedians, becoming unable to defend themselves, submitted at some period of their history to Alexandria in Troas. On the ancient silver coins of the island are the types of a double-edged axe of a peculiar form; and on the reverse a bifacial head like that of Janus. The "Tenedica



VIEW OF TENEDOS.



VIEW OF MILO.



PROTESTANT PEASANT GIRL.

CATHOLIC PEASANT GIRL.

PEASANT

COSTUMES OF THE PEASANTRY OF ALSACE.

securis" (axe of Tenedos) was a proverb expressing any summary mode of executing justice or dispatching an affair; derived from the law of a King of Tenedos, mentioned by Aristotle as quoted by Stephanus, which permitted a person who caught others in adultery to kill both parties with an axe.

Tenedos was visited by Chandler, who "found there but few remains of antiquity worthy of notice. In the streets, the walls, and burying-grounds were pieces of marble and fragments of pillars, with a few inscriptions." The greatest length of the island is from east to west. The town, with its harbour, is situated in a low and sheltered spot at the north-east corner. In the market-place is the Soros of Atticus, father of Herodes Atticus. It contains both Turkish and Greek houses. To the north of the harbour is a good fortress with forty-two pieces of cannon, but commanded from the heights in the rear. The aspect of Tenedos from the sea is barren, but it is cultivated in the interior, and produces wheat and very fine red wine.

COSTUMES OF THE PEASANTRY OF ALSACE.

THERE is a tract of country on the left bank of the Rhine the loss of which is felt by patriotic Germans as the severest wound they

suffered throughout the Thirty Years' War. We allude to Alsace. The inhabitants of that French province retain to this day the language and much of the manners of the race from which they have descended. Among the peasant populations of Alsace the pure type of the rural character is most distinctly marked in the inhabitants of the district called Kochersberger-Gau, though here and there the influence of modern cultivation is gradually becoming more and more perceptible.

The Kochersberger-Gau is situated about ten or twelve miles north-west of Strasbourg. It is one of the most fertile parts of Alsace, and it contains a considerable number of thriving villages inhabited by a hardy race of peasant.

About two-thirds of the whole population of Alsace profess the Catholic faith, and about one-third are Protestants. In Kochersberg the followers of the two religions may be estimated according to the same relative proportions. In the last-mentioned district difference of religious creed is strikingly marked in the manners and habits of the people, and, above all, in the style of female costume. In the dress of the men, on the other hand, difference of religion has never, at any time, created a perceptible distinction. The red neckerchief worn thirty years ago is still generally seen; in short, the peasant's costume shown in our first illustration is still kept up both by Catholics and Protestants, though now

gradually disappearing in the villages adjacent to Strasbourg. This costume consists of black smallclothes, long white gaiters (called flackerstrumpfe), and a broad-brimmed felt hat. The latter is chiefly worn by old men, but when adopted by young men it is turned up behind, and formed into a point or cock like that in our illustration. The old-fashioned, wide-skirted, coat is still worn by men of all ages.

The variegated and picturesque costume of the women of Kochersberg has undergone but little change during a long series of years. Here and there, it is true, some more coquettish than the rest adopt a clumsy imitation of the fashions in the towns, thereby making up a style of costume more ludicrous than becoming. The old national dress, as seen in our Engraving, may be thus described:—The gown or skirt of the Catholic women is long, and usually either red or orange, and without trimming. The Protestant women wear a shorter skirt, generally green, and trimmed with red or black. Both Catholics and Protestants wear on the neck a large black silk handkerchief called a "flore," apparently from the circumstance of these handkerchiefs being imported from Florence. The headdress is a small round cap, confined to the head by a broad ribbon tied in a large bow in front.

Our other illustration portrays the costumes, male and female, peculiar to the villages on the boundaries of Rhenish Bavaria.



COSTUMES OF THE PEASANTRY OF WASGAU AND HEISENBURG.

THE "ROYAL CHARTER."—BOARD OF TRADE REPORT.

The official report upon the loss of the *Royal Charter* has been published. The inquiry was made by Mr. Mansfield, the stipendiary magistrate of Liverpool, and Captain Harris, nautical assessor. The former gentleman makes the report. He says:—

In reviewing the evidence before me it is my painful duty to notice the apparent want of preparation to encounter stormy weather shown by the *Royal Charter* in her course up Channel. She came up Channel with her sky-masts on end, and yard across. It is true that the weather was fine in the morning, and there might have been no indications of the coming hurricane; but it is certain that in such a dangerous sea, and at a time of year when storms may be expected, the staunchest merchant-ship would be only prudent in making all snug aloft, and the best-equipped man-of-war would infallibly do so.

I have no evidence before me to show whether the barometer gave any indication of the approaching gale. There were two if not three of these instruments on board. If they had been noticed, they would in all probability have suggested caution.

At five p.m. there were two courses open—the *Royal Charter* was close to Holyhead, and might have run in there for refuge, or she might have put her head to the westward and kept the Irish Channel open. At six p.m. the skerries were rounded, and the wind increased to a gale. At nine p.m. the wind and sea had increased so much that, although under full steam, the ship refused to answer her helm. It was then found that the ship was drifting bodily to leeward, and no course remained but to let go the anchors. To the anchors it will have been observed that the ship held for four hours, and it is to be lamented that the resolution was not immediately taken to cut away the masts. Had she been so relieved, her only chance of safety—viz., holding on to her anchors—might possibly have been secured. It is evident that, with the top hamper aloft, the steam power was inadequate to keep the ship under command. Had the masts been sacrificed at first, as they were ultimately, the steam power might have availed the ship more effectually. It is very likely that the captain of the *Royal Charter* was deterred from this course by the apprehension that the falling rigging and spars might foul her screw, thus repeating the catastrophe undergone by the *Prince*, in 1851, off Balaklava. But it should be remembered that the *Prince* was supplied with a three-bladed fan, while the *Royal Charter* had a two-bladed one only, which could be hoisted up in a short time and with little labour.

I may here also advert to what appears a dangerous practice—viz., to steam ahead to the anchors in a gale of wind, and in a seaway. A gale of wind, as is well known, is not uniform in strength, but there are moments of comparative lull. During these the steam power, not being readily controlled, is apt to shoot the ship ahead. After this, when a violent gust occurs, the ship drops astern, bringing up with a sudden and a severe jerk on her cables—a kind of strain most likely to make them part. It is not impossible that such may be the true explanation of the parting of the cables of the *Royal Charter*.

All the evidence concurs in showing that the force of the gale was terrific, and unexampled on that coast. Nothing conclusive can be arrived at towards solving the question whether a wooden ship would have held together longer, or so long as the *Royal Charter*.

As far as I have had information on the subject, I have no ground to impute blame to the life-boat people. The Coast Guard were early on the spot, though stationed ten miles off. The two pilot-boats, according to the regulations of the port, were in their proper cruising-ground off Point Lynas. One of them saw a blue light, probably from the *Royal Charter*, and kept a sharp look-out accordingly, but immediately after the darkness was so great and the rain so thick as to make it impossible to see from one end of the pilot-boat to the other. The wind also became so high as to put out her lights repeatedly; and, even had she neared the *Royal Charter*, there was such a sea running as to make it impossible to put a pilot on board.

The officers and crew to the last were indifferent to the preservation of their own lives, and solely intent on their duty. Taking into account the unexampled fury of the gale, which entirely neutralised the powerful action of the screw-propeller, so that the ship was no longer under command—a circumstance which Captain Taylor could not have anticipated; and considering also the apprehension he may have entertained, while at anchor, that the masts would foul the screw if they were cut away, and possibly that the action of the screw to ease the cables could not be safely intermitted—I do not think that this is a case in which I could report that the ship was lost by the default of the master.

The divers have not recovered much specie from the wreck, not more than £13,000, till lately, when, the starboard quarter of the *Royal Charter* having been lifted, the divers got up twelve boxes and twelve bags and several ingots of gold.

DISASTERS AT SEA.

The steam-ship *Indian*, from Liverpool to Portland, U.S., was totally wrecked on the Mary and Joseph rocks, off Guisborough, Nova Scotia, on the 21st of November. The weather was thick, and the *Indian* was going under full steam at the time she struck. Three out of the seven boats were capsized after being launched, and a fourth stove by the rollers breaking on the ledge. The number drowned could not be ascertained, but the loss is supposed to number about thirty souls. There was little hope of saving the mails or anything, as the vessel was fast breaking up. She broke amidships. The schooner *Wace* picked up fifty of the survivors the same day.

A disastrous shipwreck, attended with the loss of 123 lives, has occurred on the French coast. A cod-fishing vessel from Newfoundland, named the *Réveil Matin*, which had on board the crew of another vessel lost on the banks of Newfoundland, has been wrecked on the bar of Bayonne; and of the 150 men who were on board only twenty-seven reached the shore.

On Monday night two vessels got ashore in Chele Bay, Isle of Wight. One is the *Maramata* or *Maralita*, from Malta, laden with oats and barley. Twelve of her crew were drowned, and five saved. The last man was saved by a fisherman named Weard, at the imminent risk of his life. The other vessel was the schooner *Sentinel*, of Carmarthen. The distance from the shore being too great for a rocket to reach her, Lieutenant Gould, of the Coast Guard, prepared a boat with seven hands to go off to rescue the crew. By this time the vessel had sunk, but her masts remained above water and the crew were seen clinging to the rigging. On the boat getting near the vessel it was found impossible to approach near enough to take off the crew, and, as they in answer to the boat's crews' entreaty, refused to jump overboard and risk being picked up by the boat, it was compelled to return to the shore by backing through the broken water, and leave them to their fate, which appeared to be nothing less than death.

SAVING LIFE FROM SHIPWRECK.

We gladly print the following letter from Mr. Potter, brother of the late Sir John Potter, M.P. for Manchester, and hope the writer's liberal engagement will be responded to as it should be in a seafaring nation:—

Sir,—I have read with much interest your recent article on the successful operations of the Tenby life-boat, which belongs to the Royal National Life-boat Institution.

The subject of saving life from shipwreck by life-boats affects not merely those who live near the seacoast, but all in these islands are deeply interested in lessening as far as possible the dangers attendant on sea voyages. I believe that the National Life-boat Institution has done great good, and I think it is well worthy the support of your numerous readers in the inland as well as seaboard districts. It has, too, an advantage over any local scheme of rewards for gallantry displayed in saving life, inasmuch as the rewards of a national institution are more highly prized than those any local body could give.

I hope your remarks will have their due influence; and, to prove that I am in earnest in this matter, I beg to say I shall be glad to subscribe £50 to the funds of the institution; or, if it be properly taken up, I will give £100, provided twenty others will do the same.

There is one point, in addition, I would impress on those who live far from the seacoast—viz., that, in case of invasion by any foreign Power, the men who will risk their own lives to save their fellow-creatures from a watery grave by shipwreck are the most likely to perform deeds of heroism in defence of our coast.

I would not have thus intruded my name upon you had I not here witnessed, on several perilous occasions, the gallantry displayed by the crews of the life-boats. I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

THOMAS B. POTTER.

79, Marine Parade, Brighton, December 3, 1859.

THERE ARE NOW ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-TWO SURVIVING WATERLOO VETERANS above the rank of captain—namely, one field marshal, twelve generals, thirty-three lieutenant-generals, thirty-nine major-generals, forty-six colonels, thirty-nine lieutenant-colonels, and twenty-two majors. Time seems to have dealt gently with these gallant old soldiers.

THE FINSEBURY MURDER.

JAMES MOORE, charged with murdering his wife by cutting her head off, was re-examined at the Worship-street Police Court on Saturday. He was brought handcuffed into court by Inspectors Brecknell and Haynes, who first took him into custody, attended by a body of constables to keep off the mob, who vainly endeavoured to get within reach. Women spat at him, and cries of "Give it him!" were frequent; to which the prisoner replied, "That is right, conclude him guilty; but wait and see the end first." While being released from the handcuffs he observed, "The fellows outside will do anything when they have got a drop of beer," looked wildly about him, and exhibited altogether a far less quiet demeanour than was apparent on the former occasion.

Inspector Brecknell said that since the last examination he had found in the prisoner's room a box with two razors, one of them much stained with blood. He produced the razor, which displayed several notches, and the rivets of the handle were loosened.

Mr. Mather, the divisional surgeon, said, "After the last hearing I closely examined the dead woman's neck, and, imbedded among the muscles of it, I discovered a small spicula of steel, evidently part of the edge of some incisive instrument, and which, on placing it under a microscope, I found to be covered with blood. I have no further direct evidence to give, but I should state that just before the last examination the prisoner, while in the cell, sent for me, and expressed a wish to have a private conversation with me."

The prisoner, who had expressed his determination to conduct his own defence, though Mr. Beard had undertaken it, here said, "No, I didn't send for you, as you were there."

Mr. Mather.—Yes, I was within a short distance of you, and, on hearing your wish, as I had the inspector with me, I told you "Of course, you do not consider him anybody," and then you made the communication I refer to.

Mr. D'Eyncourt.—What was the statement?

Mr. Mather.—He said to me "Of course, you know all that is passing in my inside; there is a tumour filled with wind, which is very troublesome to me;" and he then said something about steam that I do not recollect. This morning also he questioned me relative to an examination.

Prisoner.—Yes; when you were before the jury (the Coroner's jury) to-day you denied having examined me at all.

Mr. D'Eyncourt.—Was that the case?

Mr. Mather.—No; I examined his bare knees at the station-house, to see if there were marks of blood on them, which there were not, and that was what he alluded to. I said I had not examined him as to bruises.

Prisoner.—I say he examined my arms and all. I have been examined by many doctors, and if you don't call that an examination I don't know what is; and, with regard to our conversation, I said nothing about steam or a boil.

Dr. Beverley Dixon, surgeon to the Hoxton Lunatic Asylum, said the prisoner had been under his charge since the beginning of August, 1858. He believed that he was first an inmate on January 20, 1855, and was discharged on the 23rd of February, perfectly sane. The prisoner was subject to mania, with delusions of a limited character. He heard the prisoner say that he had an engine in his inside, and he believed he had previously said he had been electrified by wires passing round his cell. He exhibited indications of insanity for two months past. He worked in a mat factory with others, and frequently spoke of his wife affectionately, and expressed a wish to work for her.

Two or three of Moore's acquaintances deposed to having met him in the interval between the commission of the murder and its discovery. He then appeared quite calm and sane. A subscription had been got up for him in Piccadilly-lane to set him to work again, and he was to have received the money on the night of the murder.

Mr. D'Eyncourt here ordered a remand, for the purpose of completing the depositions; on hearing which the prisoner insisted upon Mr. Beard applying for bail, and there was some difficulty in assuring him that such an application would be useless. He was very excited at times, owing, perhaps, to the two examinations (at the inquest and at the court) on the same day. No new evidence was given before the Coroner, who adjourned the inquest.

Moore has since been committed.

THE SULTAN AND HIS WIVES.—A sumptuary edict of the most amusing description has been issued by the Grand Vizier, in the hope of checking the extravagant outlay of the fair inmates of the harem. Like many husbands nearer home, the Sultan fears that his wives' milliners' bills will bring him into the Insolvent Court. The edict, however, does not confine itself to dress. The preamble takes very high ground indeed, and infers a connection between morality and crinoline which denotes that the subject has been deeply studied in Stamboul. It runs thus:—"All women must take the greatest care to refrain from everything contrary to good conduct, and must watch most attentively over the honour of their families. The laws and customs of other nations have regulated all that is connected with the observance of morality. According to the Mohammedan law, the first obligation for women consists in the use of the veil; consequently, for a Turkish woman to depart from the observance of that custom is a breach of not only a social duty but of a precept of faith. Nevertheless, for some time past a certain number of women, contrary to the laws of propriety, make use of very thin veils and of dresses made of materials which have never before been used for such purposes, and walk about with their features and persons too much seen. They, moreover, affect indecent manners, and in the public promenades mix with men. Henceforth all women, wherever they may be, on leaving their houses, must wear thick veils which completely cover their features, and be clad in dresses of cloth or other suitable material without embroidery, trimming, or external ornaments of any kind. They must not show themselves out of doors simply in stockings and slippers, but must wear half-boots in yellow morocco leather or some other suitable and decent covering for the feet. When they go out to make purchases they are strictly prohibited from entering shops, but must stop on the outside to be served, and must not remain longer than is absolutely necessary. When they are on the public promenades they must confine themselves to the part reserved for females. Any woman who shall be guilty of acts against the law will be severely punished. No female shall keep equipages beyond her means, and the drivers be most carefully selected. The men must also conform to the laws of propriety, particularly in the streets, or they will subject themselves to severe punishment."

FRENCH GUN-BOATS.—A correspondent of an American paper, in describing the gun-boats which the French Government is now building, says:—"They carry but one mast, and are moved principally by a propeller completely submerged. The mast as well as the machinery can be made to disappear when necessary. The boat carries but one gun, which is of the largest size, placed near the bow, pointing forward, and behind a screen (blindage) which protects the gunners. The blindage is the principal feature of this class of vessels. It consists in an immense oaken screen, covered with iron, set upright across the vessel, and pierced with a hole for the muzzle of the big gun. The wooden part of this screen is twenty inches thick; the iron which covers it has a thickness of five inches; total, twenty-five inches. The iron plate is retained by immense bolts and screws. After the keel of the vessel (which has a length of say seventy-five feet) is placed in position in the ordinary way, the screen, which on account of its weight is cut into two upright pieces, is hoisted into the keel by means of a high scaffolding and pulleys. It is then adjusted and the plates screwed on. When in position the top of the screen projects about five feet above the top of the ribs of the keel. Looking from before, this screen hides all the after-part of the vessel. The vessel, of course, attacks only in front. If the vessel is seventy-five long the screen will be placed at about twenty feet from the bow. Thus the screen answers the triple purpose of protecting the men and the greater part of the vessel and of serving by its port-hole for a resting-place for the gun. It will be readily understood that such an obstacle ought to resist the shock of the most terrible projectiles. The vessel has no bowsprit, and the piercing of all that is in front of the screen can have absolutely no influence on the vessel, since the vessel proper exists behind the screen, and not before it. The vessel, in fact, offers to the enemy's balls nothing but an immense floating, movable, unsteady shield, hard to hit, and impervious to balls when hit. These boats draw but little water, and, being able to penetrate everywhere, may become most useful and terrible instruments of destruction. The French Government are building a very large number of them of various sizes."

ENGLAND AND SPAIN: A BRUSSELS REMOOR.—The *Nord* of Brussels says:—"We have a serious announcement to make on the subject of Spain. A letter from Paris informs us that England, persisting to the end in her opposition to the Spanish expedition to Morocco, has found a pretext for annoying the Cabinet of Madrid. She now claims from Spain, with a bitterness unworthy of a great nation, the payment of the warlike stores furnished at the period of the civil war in the Peninsula. The Spanish Government, calling to mind the affair of Greece, appears to have the intention of yielding, in order to take from England all pretence for acts of violence, or for an intervention which the latter appears to seek for. Bad reasons have never been wanting to England for getting up a quarrel, and, notwithstanding the condescendence of Spain, there is reason to fear serious complications." There is no truth whatever in the statement.

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED IN THE WESTMINSTER COUNTY COURT that if a landlord lodges with a house-agent a description of a house to be let, and agrees to the terms on which the agent will let it, he is bound to pay the agent a percentage, although the agent does not let the house. The fault is with the landlord, seeing that he should not sign papers binding him to pay for anything but work done.

SIR JOHN COLERIDGE AND CHURCH RATES.

A MEETING of churchmen was held in Exeter, on Friday week, for the purpose of adopting a petition to Parliament in favour of church rates. The Rev. H. Sanders, Rural Dean, presided; and among those present were Sir John Coleridge, Sir S. H. Northcote, M.P., Sir E. S. Pridaux, Mr. S. T. Kekewich, M.P., and Archdeacon Bartholomew.

Sir John Coleridge made a spirited speech. He maintained that the title of the Church to church rates was unquestionable. In the Court of Queen's Bench, in the Exchequer Court, and in the House of Lords, even when they have decided against the maintenance of a particular rate, not one Judge has been found who has not laid it down (and the same law has prevailed in Doctors' Commons, in the Ecclesiastical Courts), that by the common law of England the burden of repairing the nave of the church lay with the parishioners.

When you come to examine it, who may be said truly to pay the rate? Why, clearly, the landowners of the country—the owners of land, and not the occupiers. I know very well that in point of form the rate, for the purposes of collection, is upon the occupier of the land. But, suppose at this moment, that the rates are done away with. Let me address you, gentlemen, who hold land from the landowner. Does not the tenant consider that the rates are an outgoing upon the estate?—and when he takes his estate, when he settles with his landlord, does he not consider the rates and taxes which he has to pay, and does he not include in them church rates? But there is still another observation to be made. I deny that either the landowner or the occupier pays the rate. It is a charge upon the estate which existed before he took the land. It never was his, and if you were now to abolish the rate you would be making a present to the landowners of this country of the value of that rate. It has been calculated—it may be a rough calculation, but it is enough for our purpose—that the church rate of the kingdom amounts to about £300,000 a year. Multiply that by thirty years' purchase, and you get a sum of £9,000,000. I do not hesitate to say that it would be £9,000,000 put into the pockets of the land for nothing. It would be giving them that which they had not before if the church rate was abolished. The history of this fight is curious. It began with a proposition for substituting something for church rates; and again and again a scheme was proposed; but nobody was ingenious enough to frame a scheme that was satisfactory. And because you cannot do justice you will do the greatest possible injustice.

Sir S. Northcote, M.P., in proposing the adoption of a petition to Parliament, said:—"I go so far as to say that if we had not church rates it would be necessary to invent them, because I do not see how we can more satisfactorily provide for the maintenance of religious worship throughout the country. It is all very well to talk of populous districts, where there may be other means to accomplish the purpose, but if you are really anxious to maintain the Church throughout the length and breadth of the land you must come to a system of rating."

THE VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS.

(To the Editor of the Illustrated Times.)

Sir,—The ninth paragraph in your article on Volunteer Rifle Corps, page 362, of the *Illustrated Times* of the 3rd inst., is incorrect in stating that the "Victoria Rules" was the only one which "succeeded in achieving a permanent footing." The 1st or Exeter and South Devon Volunteer Rifle Battalion was formed in, and has been in existence since, 1852, and stands on the Army List as *first* in the kingdom. As we are not a little proud of our title, we should be obliged by your giving publicity to the above statement.

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

W. S. PARMORE,

Sergeant No. 1 Company 1st Battalion Volunteer Rifles.

Sir,—May I beg the favour of your correcting in your next Number the statement you made in your last Number respecting the position of the North London or 4th Middlesex Corps? This corps was started nearly six months since, but, through delays with the Government and other obstacles, we did not get fairly started till about two months since, during which period we saw the rise and fall of two rival companies. In October the officers received their commissions, since which we have made steady and satisfactory progress, the first company having been completed and the second being in a fair way for its completion. Our success is mainly to be attributed to the spirit evinced by the press, for in the first instance there was a lack of patriotic feeling. Our uniform is green, similar to the London Brigade; committee-room, Myddelton Hall; drill-ground, Angli's Riding School, Upper-street, Islington, where, on Wednesday and Saturday evenings from eight to ten, drill takes place. We have a volunteer band of fife and drums. The cost of the uniform is £1 17s. 6d., and it is my desire to keep down the cost in every respect as much as possible, so that persons in moderate circumstances may join. Our practising-ground (Seven Sisters-road, Holloway) has been approved by the Government Inspector; and there is every reason to believe that "North London" will, next spring, show as effective a number of men as any corps in the country.

Yours &c.,

ALFRED ALEXANDER, Capt. 4th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers.

HEALTH OF LORD CLYDE.—A bad report is given of Lord Clyde's health. His last letters home were not written by his own hand, but by that of his secretary, Colonel Anthony Sterling. Lord Clyde—or, as he delights still to be called by old friends, "Sir Colin"—has never recovered from the effects of his fall from horseback. It is feared that some injury was done to the lungs from the forcing in upon them of some of the bones of the chest or ribs, in consequence of which Lord Clyde has ever since been troubled by a harassing cough and great difficulty of breathing. He is expected home in the first or second quarter of next year.

AN IRISH VOLUNTEER CORPS.—A meeting was held on Monday to encourage the formation of an Irish volunteer corps in London. It was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, under the chairmanship of the Marquis of Donegal, who said he had no fears of the Emperor of the French, though he thought the feelings of the army and clergy and people of France, in general, were to be regretted and guarded against. The tone of the meeting was altogether anti-French. But there was another element in it. This, as might have been expected, was expressed by one of the speakers, who contended that the enrolment of an Irish corps in London should be delayed until it was deemed advisable to put Ireland upon an equality with England by giving Ireland the opportunity to arm. This speaker was much cheered when he proceeded to say that our Government was casting a slur upon the Irish. One of the speakers was Mr. Samuel Lover, who thus made his appearance in a new capacity. Sir J. S. Lillie suggested that every house in every town and village should contain a revolver and a bayonet—"a suggestion," says the *Morning Star*, "which may probably be appreciated by those of the working classes who would not care to get up another 10th of April demonstration in support of their rights."

THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST.—There was much less disturbance than usual at the Church of St. George-in-the-East last Sunday. The chorists were loudly hissed as they entered and as they left the edifice; there was much coughing during certain portions of the service, and those who sung and those who said the responses endeavoured to bawl each other down, as usual, but, on the whole, the services passed off more peaceably. Forty constables were present!—On Saturday three young men were charged before Mr. Selfe with hissing, groaning, reading the responses in a defiant and disorderly tone, &c., on the previous Sunday. In the first case Mr. Selfe gave the defendant the benefit of a doubt, and the charge was dismissed. The second case, that of a pupil-teacher, who defended himself with some ability, was compromised by the kind interposition of the magistrate, and the summons was allowed to stand over for three weeks. In the third case, which was not entered upon, the summons was also allowed to stand over. During the investigation there were, notwithstanding the protests of Mr. Selfe, several manifestations of feeling on the part of the audience, and the Rev. C. F. Lowder, the prosecutor, was hissed on leaving the court. The report of this case in the daily papers "having led many to suppose that the charge was contradicted at the instance of the clergy," the Rev. Mr. Lowder publicly contradicted the idea. "Such forbearance on our part," he says, "would have been entirely out of place and ill-judged. We pressed, and still press, for conviction, believing that the necessity of the case requires it as a warning to others, and the most effectual means of maintaining the peace of the parish and the sanctity of the church." On Monday morning Mr. Selfe granted a summons against the reverend gentleman himself, for assault.

THE SLAVE TRADE IN A BRITISH COLONY.—A book has recently appeared in Philadelphia under the title of "Four Years Aboard a Whaleship," in which it is asserted that the slave trade is openly carried on in the Mauritius, a British colony; that the Governor receives so much per head on every importation; that the slaves are sold at public auction, and treated with the greatest cruelty, the favourite mode of punishment being to lash them over the head. The veracious author says, "The gross brutality to which the poor wretches are in general subjected may be judged of from the fact that he saw a policeman calmly looking on whilst a slave was knocked down and dragged by the waistband over the sharp points of the macadamised street, with nothing to preserve his body from laceration except the calico that wound round his loins. This scene occurred, not in an obscure and out-of-the-way place, but in a public street, where people were constantly passing, and who, if any feeling at all were expressed by them, only laughed at the ludicrousness of the scene."

THE LIVERPOOL DEMONSTRATION.

THE long-advertised meeting of the Liverpool Financial Reform Association took place in the Philharmonic Hall on Thursday week. Mr. Charles Robertson presided. Mr. Cobden and a host of other conspicuous persons sent letters of apology. That from Mr. Cobden was read. He was kept at Paris, confined by a severe cold to his room; but he sent his approval of the object of the association—that of establishing direct in the place of indirect taxation. After this a long address from the association to Mr. Bright, Mr. Cobden, and General Thompson was read, setting forth in detail the views of that body, who seem to be of opinion that they are taking up the unfulfilled mission of the Anti-Corn-law League.

There were present five members of Parliament—Mr. Bright, Mr. J. C. Ewart, Mr. Pollard Urquhart, Mr. Pilkington, and Mr. Hadfield. Mr. Bright's speech was the event of the evening, of course. He defined the objects of the association to be—"First, as much as possible to confine the Government to an economical expenditure of the public money; and, secondly, to confine them to this simple principle of justice, that, whatever may be the amount required to be levied, it shall be levied from the people in proportion to the property which every man possesses by reason of the security which the Government gives him."

Mr. Bright's doctrine is that men should pay taxes in proportion to their property, and that this should be accomplished by some plan of direct taxation. On this head he remarked:—

It does appear that about a year ago the authorities of the Inland Revenue gave to the Chancellor of the Exchequer some calculations to show how much the upper, the middle, and the lower classes consumed of the articles of tea and sugar, and the result was this—that of sugar the upper classes consumed 22 1/2 per cent, the middle classes 38 per cent, and the poorer classes 39 1/2; of the article of tea the upper classes consumed 17 1/2 per cent, the middle classes 38 per cent, and the working or poorer classes 44 1/2 per cent. Well, we don't know at all how this calculation was made, or the principle on which it proceeded, and therefore I cannot exactly say whether it is right or wrong; but, taking their own figures, let us put them to this test. The upper classes, according to this calculation, pay, in the shape of tea duties, £22,000; the middle classes, £2,002,000; and the poorer classes, £2,345,000; the total amount being £5,269,000, and upwards. Of the sugar duties the proportions contributed are £1,345,000 by the richer classes, £2,272,000 by the middle classes, and £2,369,000 by the poorer classes. Of the tobacco duties the respective contributions are—from the richer classes, £956,000; the middle classes, £2,076,000; and the poorer classes, £2,431,000. Taking these three articles together, on this calculation the rich pay £3,224,000, the middle classes £6,351,000, and the poorer classes £7,139,000. Now, of the whole customs and excise, which amount to £12,000,000, and upwards, the proportions, according to the same scale, are—for the upper classes, £7,350,000; middle classes, £15,960,000; poorer classes, £18,960,000. But you must bear in mind that whatever be the consumption of the richer classes, especially of what is called the upper classes, that far more than half of it is consumed, not by what is called "the family," but by the servants who minister to their wants, and I take it for granted that whatever is contributed to their maintenance in their houses represents wages. This maintenance must be reckoned as wages for services, and my Lord this or Mr. Somebody who may have twenty or thirty servants in his household is not to put down to his family expenditure all the taxes paid upon articles consumed by those whose services he pays for partly in food and lodging, and partly in money wages. And if it were possible by any calculation to withdraw these large items from what the rich are said to consume, it would show, no doubt, that upon this calculation my statement as to the proportion of taxation paid by the working classes of this country would be fully substantiated in every figure.

But these figures, he contends, are not correct, and he ascribes a larger share of payments to the poor, and argued that, as there are 24,000,000 people who live in houses under a £10 rental, they must pay more taxes than the 6,000,000 who live in houses of a dearer kind. But—

What is the change we propose? I am not about to recommend that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should immediately advertise all the custom-houses to be let, and that the last custom-house officer, the last coast-guardman, and the last smuggler should be preserved as curiosities in the British Museum; but I am going to mention what I think would be a great and practicable step in the right direction, and what might ultimately lead to the accomplishment of the complete object which your association has in view. . . . Suppose, then, you were to pass a law that every £100 of property, excluding the property of those who do not possess £100, should pay annually the sum of 8s. to the State; that tax would procure about £24,000,000 per annum, or more than four times as much as the income tax last year. It would be imposed over many more persons, it would be collected at an inconsiderable expense, and if district committees were appointed, partly by the Government and partly by taxpayers, it would be more cheerfully paid and produce less of heartburning and complaint than the present income tax. What would be the pressure? The possessor of £100 would pay 8s. a year, but tea, sugar, and a heap of other things would be much cheaper to him, and his trade, in all probability, would receive a stimulus such as it never obtained before. The owner of £1000 would pay £4 a year; the owner of £10,000, £10; the owner of £100,000, £40; and the owner of a million, £400. Is there anything unreasonable in that? Is that revolutionary doctrine? What would be the result? In the first place, trade would be extended to an enormous degree. See what you would repeal. The present income tax would go, and the duties upon 439 articles in the tariff—duties to which your association has sworn eternal hostility—would also go. . . . Let me suppose that you do retain two taxes, which some people have a notion—though, I think, an erroneous one—ought to be maintained for moral considerations—the taxes upon spirits and tobacco. Those taxes produce a large sum; they are paid mainly by the working classes; and I ask you whether it would not be fair and reasonable to call upon the upper and middle classes to sustain all other burdens which might be required for the purposes of the State?

Mr. Bright objected to the taxes on marine insurances, on receipts and cheques, on fire insurances, and endeavoured to show that landed property is imprudently exempted from taxation.

The poor are taxed oppressively to spare the rich, and trade is taxed oppressively to spare landed property. Nor is the explanation difficult to find. Our Parliament is essentially a Parliament of the rich. I have shown you that 24,000,000 of people living in houses under the value of £10 are excluded from the representation, which is confined to 6,000,000, composing the upper and middle classes. But our Parliament, besides being a Parliament of the rich, is especially a Parliament of the landed gentry. More than two hundred members of the House of Commons are the nominees of some dozen of the chief proprietors of land in the respective counties from which they come. . . . I ask that Parliament should be made a real representation of the property, the industry, and the intelligence of the nation; that we may be delivered, if possible, from chaotic legislation, from reckless expenditure, and from a taxation oppressive, unequal, and unjust. The monopolists of power reject that demand with scorn. The day may come when it will be made in a louder voice than mine, when this question will be grasped in a ruder hand than mine; and when it is so made, as was the case in 1832, that will be surrendered with fear and humiliation for which reason and justice now plead in vain.

The *Economist* questions Mr. Bright's proposal for amending the taxation of the country. It says—

The scheme which he has suggested in his own words is this:—"Suppose, then, you were to pass a law that every £100 of property, excluding the property of those who do not possess £100, should pay annually the sum of 8s. to the State, that tax would procure about £24,000,000 per annum, or more than four times as much as the income tax last year." Can Mr. Bright have made a calculation of the burden which such a tax would practically impose on those subject to it? A man does not pay taxation—annual taxation especially—out of his property, but out of his income. The income which £100 invested in the funds yields is not so much as £3 4s. per annum. The tax which he proposes would be 8s. on £3 4s., or one eighth of the whole amount. By this rule a man who derived from land or the funds £104 would pay £13, reducing his income to £91; £120 would pay £15, reducing his income to £105; £160 would pay £20, reducing his income to £140; a person with £400 a year so derived would pay £50, and, with £800 a year, would pay £100. Mr. Bright says that this tax would yield £24,000,000, and he proposes to use it in repealing certain burdens which he enumerates.

The income tax is to be repealed. The professions and salaried classes, now taxed under Schedules B, D, and E, are to pay nothing; and the landholder and fundholder in Schedules A and C are to pay £24,000,000. Surely this is a singular result! A man who earns a large professional income of £4000 a year is to pay nothing; a comparatively poor landholder or fundholder with £400 a year is to pay £50. What meaning or pretence or floating notion of justice is there here? A certain fallacy runs through all Mr. Bright's speeches on the subject, and a certain mistake has, we think, penetrated into his mind. He thinks that all people with visible "property" are rich, and all who are without it poor. But such is not the truth. A man who earns a large income for his station in life, a lawyer or a physician, is rich; but one who has only a small income is poor, though its source be visible and tangible. One result of his misconception is even

more surprising than the rest. Does Mr. Bright perceive that he is about to let off the official class entirely? We know well they are no favourites of his; but by his scheme the whole class, from the Lord Chancellor and Prime Minister downward to the clerks, would be exempted from the income tax, from the tea and sugar duties, from the wine duty, and from much else. We are surprised that Mr. Bright, even in momentary excitement, can have suggested such a proposal. What, moreover, would be the effect of this scheme on the savings of the country? So long as a man simply earns much, and spends the whole of it, he is not to pay according to this proposal; but the moment he begins to save it, and have "property," he is taxed. . . . We cannot advocate a scheme of which the proposer, we conceive, does not anticipate the true effect—which exempts many of the rich, and would tax many of the poor—which would work an injustice too great to be seriously thought of, and too monstrous to be easily imagined.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

A MEETING of gentlemen in favour of Parliamentary Reform, convened by a Reform committee sitting in King-street, Cheapside, was held at the Guildhall Coffeehouse, Gresham-street, on Wednesday, to confer as to the course to be taken in the present position of the question. Mr. W. Hargreaves was Chairman. Mr. Bright, M.P., was present and spoke at some length on the subject, and so also were Lord Teynham, Mr. Clay, M.P., Mr. Kershaw, M.P., Mr. Bristow, M.P., Mr. Samuel Morley, Mr. Cox, late M.P. for Finsbury, Mr. Serjeant Parry, Mr. W. C. Sleight, barrister, and other gentlemen, with deputations from the provinces. The Chairman, in his opening speech, remarked upon the rifle volunteer movement as likely to interfere with the cause they had at heart. A resolution expressive of thanks to Mr. Bright was adopted, and this was followed by a motion affirming the specific points of Reform now demanded:—

Resolved—That, in the judgment of this conference, no measure will be regarded as a settlement which does not include a large extension of the suffrage both in counties and in boroughs; an equitable redistribution of seats in proportion to the population and property of the constituencies; an assimilation of electoral laws for England, Scotland, and Ireland; the repeal of the Septennial Act, and such protection to the voter, by means of the ballot, as may arrest that corruption and intimidation which have been so fearfully prevalent in the late election, and which threaten to undermine the political institutions of the country.

Mr. Bright, in his speech, made reference to the bill which he had prepared in accordance with the resolution of the conference of last year, and stated why he had been induced to withhold it from the Legislature. He never hoped to pass the bill, and merely offered it as indicating the sort of measure which the people expected. He should have pushed the bill forward, however, after the failure of Lord Derby's scheme, but then came the dissolution. Alluding to the Government measure of the coming Session, Mr. Bright said that, whatever he himself and those associated with him might wish the Cabinet to do, he did not think they could be asked to do more than to carry out the intentions expressed by Lord John Russell; and if these intentions were fulfilled he did not think that an opposition would be expedient.

"MY ATTENTION HAS BEEN CALLED."—Does any one ever, by any chance, read in the newspapers anything regarding himself requiring an answer or explanation? We raise this inquiry because all letters of complaint, contradiction, or explanation, commence with the same words, "My attention has been called to." &c. Now, what is the meaning of this air? Would the writer "make believe" that he does not read newspapers, that he is too high and mighty, or too much occupied for such reading? Or have we amongst us great men like those of Laputa, who are attended by dappers to rouse their attention to what concerns them? But, really, little men have a greater right to this pretension of attention-calling than great ones. For example, it would be allowable for John Jenkins, the street-sweeper, to write to the *Times*, saying that his attention had been called to the statement that John Jenkins, the street-sweeper of Charing-cross, had been committed for picking pockets, and that he is not the John Jenkins so compromised, the offender being an interloper, who has stolen the name as well as the snuff box; this, we say, would be allowable, because a street-sweeper may not be supposed to read the newspaper at his breakfast-table, as most folks do. In Foote's farce, "The Upholsterer," Quilman reads the announcement of his own bankruptcy in the *Gazette*, and wonders they can insert such uninteresting rubbish when he is so anxious about the poor dear Emperor of Morocco. Here is the rare example of a man who wanted a flapper to call his attention, but, to be sure, it occurs in the extravagance of farce. We should like to see the sort of people who call attention. It is not a business, like calling carriages at routs, nor that of a footman who calls a cab, but purely officious. It is safest, however, to believe it fabulous. And why, in the name of common sense, should any one think it beneath him to say that he has seen with his own eyes what it concerns him to notice in a newspaper?—*Examiner*.

PRINCE ALFRED AT MOUNT ATHOS.—The following is an extract from a private letter from Mount Athos, dated Nov. 13:—"His Royal Highness Prince Alfred landed at Mount Athos, and was received by Hassib Effendi, Kaimakan, and Kutei-Sanic, and the Bishops and distinguished persons of the monasteries. The Prince, accompanied by these gentlemen, visited the monasteries, and the libraries attached to them, and all the places of note in the mountain, after which his Royal Highness made a hunting excursion, during which he shot two stags and four pheasants. The Prince embarked after this party, not, however, without making splendid presents to the Kaimakan, Bishops, and Priests. During his sojourn the convent and monasteries were splendidly illuminated throughout the night."

AGITATION IN HUNGARY.—In a letter from Pesth, of November 29, we read:—"The national demonstrations of the Hungarians are increasing and multiplying in a manner which must, one would think, cause serious anxiety to the Viennese Government. Another most striking one took place three nights back at the Opera House in this city. The most popular of the national operas, Erkel's 'Hunyadi Laszlo' ('Ladislas Hunyadi'), was performed, and the house was crowded from top to bottom. Every Hungarian in it—whether high or low, young or old, male or female—was in the national costume: in boxes, pit, and gallery the well-known and much-loved garb was alone to be seen. It is possible that to some English folk a display of more tailoring and millinery may appear puerile in a people in the grave position in which the Hungarians now stand; but among a semi-Oriental nation, like the Hungarians, matters of costume are not unimportant; and, besides, the resuscitation of the national garb, after it has long been almost universally laid aside, could scarcely, I fancy, fail to move any man who really loves his country, even though he should be of a calmer race and a more northern clime than the Magyars. After all, however, what is important in the present situation of Hungary is that the people of all ranks and all creeds unite to make national demonstrations; the pretexts which serve for the demonstrations, be they the centenary anniversary of the birth of a poet, or the 'jubilee' of a Catholic Bishop, or a public meeting of Protestants, matters little." There has been a great anti-Austrian demonstration at Klausenburg, in Transylvania, on the opening of a national museum. At a banquet a toast proposed by Baron Kellermann to "The Hungarian Exiles" was drunk with enthusiasm, and speeches highly complimentary to those sufferers for country's sake were delivered."

ROMANTIC SUICIDE.—Edmund Shirley, a photographer, aged twenty-four and Rosetta Greenwood, aged eighteen, went to a coffeehouse in the City-road, on the evening of Wednesday week, and engaged a bedroom, as they had done on a previous occasion. As they did not make their appearance next morning the room was forced, and the young people were found dead. The girl lay with her arms over the bedclothes, with a white handkerchief in her hand, looking as though she were asleep. Shirley lay with his arms about her waist. On a table by the side of the bed was a tumbler and a bottle labelled "Poison." On the dressing-table were two letters. We copy them:—"Dear Father, I must now say farewell to this world. Your dutiful wife has driven me mad, and as to live to be so unhappy I cannot. If I had not made up my mind to destroy myself I should have shot Sarah out of revenge for my sister's death, which she was the cause of. I know she has been the cause of another deed too frightful to mention. You may think I have lost all my senses, but I can tell you that I am as sensible as you are at the present moment. I do not die alone, but the one I love dies with me. My last wish is that we may be buried together. If you wish to find us it will be at ——. I remain, your disobedient son, EDMUND SHIRLEY."—"Thursday. Dear Aunt, By the time you receive this I shall be no more for this world. From your most affectionate, ROSETTA GREENWOOD."—It appeared from the evidence adduced before the Coroner that the girl had kept company with Shirley for some time by her aunt's permission. She (the girl) left home on Tuesday and returned no more. On Wednesday they called on a female acquaintance of Shirley, to whom he had shown the poison, threatening to destroy himself; while his companion declared that she would die with him, and even put the bottle to her lips. But then, it seems, the poison was not dissolved. A surgeon attributed death in both cases to prussic acid or cyanide of potash. The jury returned a verdict of "Death from the mortal effects of poison taken while in a state of unsound mind."

Literature.

The Boy's Birthday Book. Illustrated. London: Houlston and Wright. Of all the boy's books, boy's own books, and books for boys of every kind, we have seen none so thoroughly interesting for boys of every age as "The Boy's Birthday Book." This valuable and agreeable volume includes tales, essays, and narratives of adventure by Mrs. S. C. Hall, William Howitt, Augustus Mayhew, Thomas Miller, and George Augustus Sala. It is admirably illustrated, and, as we have already hinted, a boy must be either very young or a very old boy indeed not to find amusement in its pages. The opening story, in which the genius for descriptive power, the genius for "illustration," and the generally humorous style of Mr. Augustus Mayhew will be recognised, tells how a boy ascended Mont Blanc. The tale is supposed to be written by the boy himself, and we can understand his feelings when he assures us that "a fellow has a right to brag a little, and to blow his own trumpet till he is black in the face, after having been 15,714 feet above the level of the sea. The monument of London," he adds, "is 200 feet high. Just imagine seventy-nine of these monuments fastened one atop of another, like the joints of a fishing-rod, and then stuck up on Ramsgate Sands. It would make rather a lofty pole for a fellow of seventeen to climb up. Well, I have done it; and, what is more, I have come down again as sound and as hearty as a wild Indian. Until now I never could make out why a cock crowed directly he perched up on a high place; but since I have been up Mont Blanc I can perfectly understand the feelings of the bird." The youthful traveller appears to have had some difficulty about starting. The mother had at first some natural objections to the ascent, and a preference for Tunbridge Wells over Switzerland; but, after a little trouble, the desired permission was obtained, and the future member of the Alpine Club (of which fatiguing society the youthful climber will doubtless be elected a member, now that his travels and explorations have been published) went off in the direction of Chamouni. Kingstone and Greene, his friends and habitual comrades, accompanied him, or joined him on the route, and, fortunately for the reader, the three had most dissimilar dispositions. Hence a great deal of humour, founded on perception of character, in addition to the positive interest and fun of the boys' adventures. The account of the ascent is truthful and picturesque in the highest degree, and, altogether, this "Boy's Ascent of Mont Blanc" is the most vivid and, at the same, the most natural boy's story ever written.

"Young Giants" is a capital paper on the subject of men who from small beginnings have attained great ends, and which presents the most striking points in the biographies of Canning, Johnson, and Stephenson.

"The Tale of a Pin" shows how by picking up a pin (but not by that alone nor by anything so simple) a young man gained a large fortune and a charming wife. We forget which he obtained first, but we have placed the prizes in the order in which they usually occur. This "Tale of a Pin" is founded on M. J. T. de St. Germain's story, or "Legend" as he affectingly calls it, entitled "Pour une épingle." However, it is a charming tale, and M. Jules Tardieu (who lives at St. Germain), having invented it, has perhaps a right to call it whatever he pleases.

"Alligators, Buffaloes, and Boa-constrictors in the Philippines" is the general title of some exciting pages about the islands to which M. de la Gironière has called attention, and which, to a certain extent, he may be said to have discovered.

"The Mammoth in the Iceberg" is a story of Siberia and of the antediluvian monster found and described by Schumachoff, and subsequently examined by Mr. Adams of St. Petersburg.

"Nipper and Toby" are two Australian shepherd-boys whose interesting adventures are admirably narrated by William Howitt.

In "Grandfather Pigtail's Story" we are informed "how the world wagged" when Mr. G. A. Sala "was a boy." Our laws are compared with those of seventy years since (Mr. Sala was no more a boy then than he is now); our railway-trains with the stage-coaches of that period; our policemen with the old watchmen; gas with oil—in short, the nineteenth with the eighteenth century. The story—most graphically related—is as instructive as it is interesting; and "Grandfather Pigtail" will deserve the thanks of the present generation for teaching them not to look back too much to the past.

"A Bréton's Family" is an affecting and evidently true story about a Breton sailor whose wife died, and who had an only daughter, who got married to a gentleman of property soon after a certain Gargantuan feast, of which the "Boy's Birthday Book" contains a faithful representation.

Of "Diamonds and Paste, or Uncle Jack's Birthday Tale," we need only say that it is by Mrs. S. C. Hall.

"Hunting the Lion" is an account of the adventures of Jules Gerard, the celebrated lion-killer, in Algeria; and

"At Sea with a Bear," which concludes the volume, is a Yankee story of the best kind—as exaggerated as anything that is to be met with in the pages of Munchausen, and certainly more humorous.

We can safely predict for "The Boy's Birthday Book" an immense success. It is full of merit; and the only bad effect it can possibly have is this—it may induce boys who, together with a sincere love of reading, possess a certain amount of misdirected ingenuity, to pretend that their birthdays occur earlier than the real date.

Jonathan Oldaker; or, Leaves from the Diary of a Commercial Traveller. By J. CRAWFORD WILSON, Author of "The Village Pearl," "Flights to Fairyland," &c. Ward and Lock.

THE time is gone by for reviewing "Jonathan Oldaker," which has already made itself a favourite among readers who like stirring incident and broad, hearty, manly feeling. We wish this new and cheap edition, with the spirited author's revisions, and some additions, the large success it deserves. The strong, genial merits of the book will make a path for it independently of the devotion of a penny per volume to the uses of the Commercial Travellers' School. One remark we may venture to make about Mr. Oldaker, which was not made, so far as we know, upon the first publication of the book—he is a correct quoter, though he quotes unceasingly. We have not caught him in a single mistake throughout his numerous reproductions of fine poetic passages.

Nelly Carew. By MARGUERITE A. POWER. 2 vols. Saunders, Otley, and Co.

If the authoress of "Nelly Carew" will find an interesting story before she sits down next time to make a book, she will produce a good novel. "Nelly Carew" is well written, and shows real knowledge of life, but the incident is for the most part commonplace. The end of "the Fox," a cunning French governess, who is the evil genius of the story, is too horrible. Nothing that is recorded of her, bad as she was, reconciles the mind of "the base, brutal Saxon" to her death by the gun of an Irish clown—"her brains scattering the bank, and her blood staining the red clay to a far deeper tint than it ever knew before." The Saxon does not like this vindictive sort of detail.

We wish "Nelly Carew" sufficient success to encourage the authoress to try again and do better. It is dedicated to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

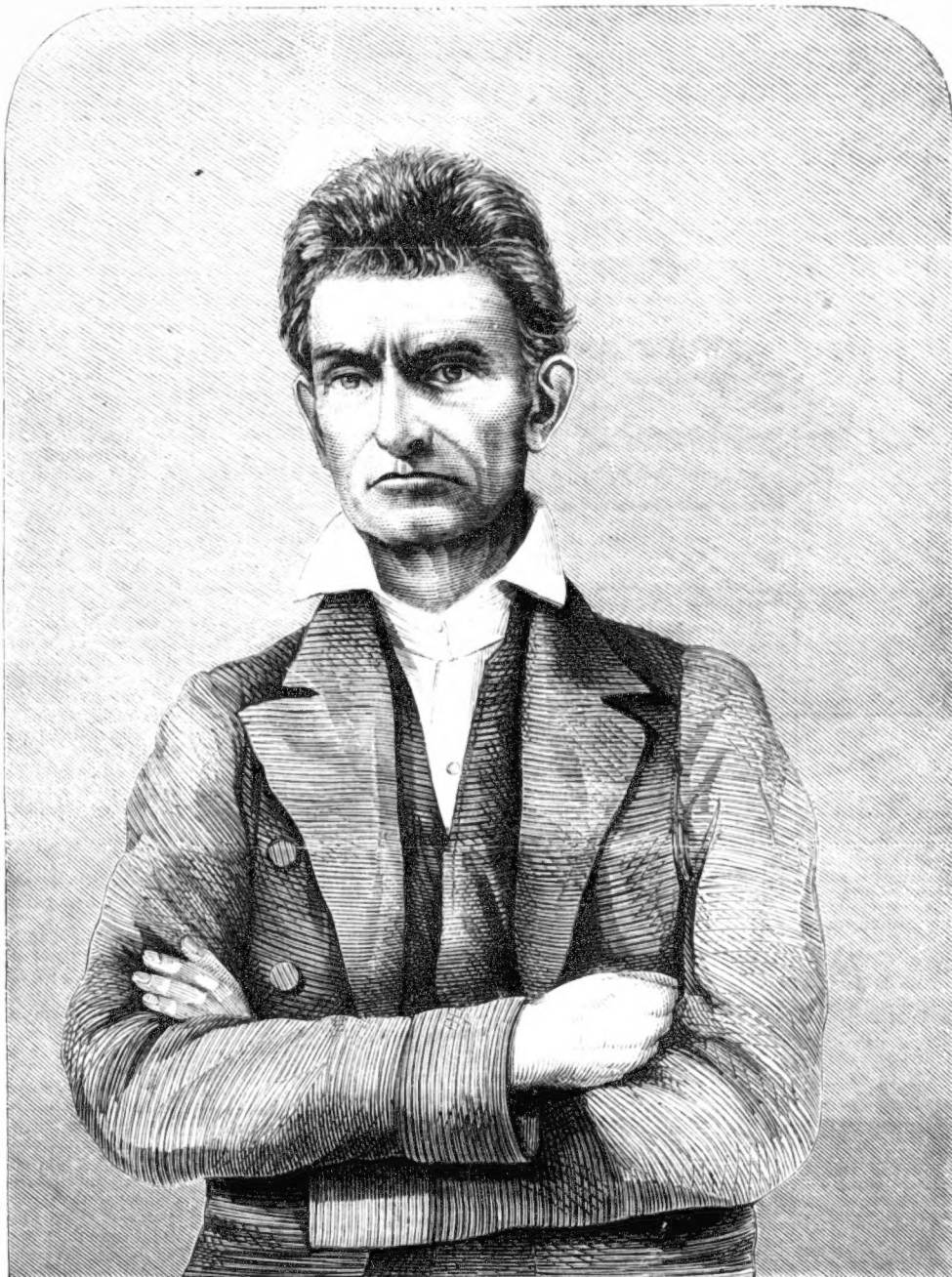
AN UNDESIRABLE NURSEMAID.—The *Salut Public* of Lyons says:—"A young widow residing in this city lately took into her service a girl who had excellent testimonials. Two days ago, as the lady was sitting in the drawing-room, the girl entered, carrying under her arm like a bundle of linen her mistress' little daughter, about three years old, with the head foremost, and proceeded deliberately to open one of the windows. The lady, astonished at her manner, asked what she was going to do with the child, to which the servant, with the greatest coolness, said that she was going to throw it out of the window. On this the mother rushed forward to prevent her, but the servant, being the stronger, succeeded in opening the window, and would have accomplished her purpose had not the widow in a moment of desperation seized the girl's hand with her teeth, and compelled her to relinquish her hold. The child was thus saved, but the poor mother has been ever since seriously ill. The girl has been placed in a lunatic asylum."

OLD BROWN AND THE HARPER FERRY INSURRECTION.

In a former Impression we gave an account of the Harper Ferry Insurrection, and are now enabled to present our readers with a Portrait of the chief actor in the revolt, and the scene where the rising took place. "Old Brown," as he is called, is the son of a wealthy farmer of Hudson, Portage county, Ohio. He was born in Connecticut about sixty-three years ago, but at an early age went to Hudson township, Ohio, where he cultivated a dairy farm for many years. He then embarked in wool-growing, in which speculation he made a large fortune. This he subsequently lost, and became absorbed in abolitionism: so much so as to become fanatical on the subject. There are many tragical circumstances connected with his history. Seven years ago he had six fine stalwart sons; only one now remains—four having fallen in border wars, and one in this late insane attempt. The following anecdotes are related of him:—

A committee of five called on him on one occasion and informed him that he must leave the territory in three days or die—that they would come to his house with a sufficient force at the end of that time, and if they found him still there they would hang him. The old man thanked them for the notice, saying, very coolly, "You will find me here then, gentlemen." Before the next sun rose the five members of that committee were in the other world. Whether Brown killed them or not is unknown, but it is certain, had they lived, that they would have killed him, and no man knew that better than he. On one occasion a certain Henry Clay Pate started out from Westport, Missouri, with a party of thirty-three men, full of boastings and promises to catch "Old Brown" and take him a prisoner to Missouri, his only fear being that he would not be able to find him. Brown was very easily found, however, for, with sixteen men, he went out to meet Pate, and, after a short fight, with a few men killed and wounded, at Black-Jack, near the Santa Fé road, Pate and his party surrendered to "Old Brown," with the exception of a Wyandot Indian by the name of Long, and a notorious murderer named Coleman. These two men, being well mounted, made their escape.

Upon another occasion a body of some two hundred and twenty men were raised and equipped in Jackson county, Mo., and started into Kansas, under the command of General Whitfield, to attack and capture "Old Brown," as every one called him. Brown, who was always vigilant and wary, and was possessed of secret means of intelligence, had made full preparation to meet the Missourians, and was encamped with one hundred and sixty men at a chosen point near the Santa Fé road, which he knew his enemies would pass. He had fifty men with Sharpe's rifles, which would kill at half a mile, and which could be loaded at the breech and fired with great rapidity. His men he had concealed in a ravine, lying on the ground, and commanding the prairie for a mile before them. The residue of the party,

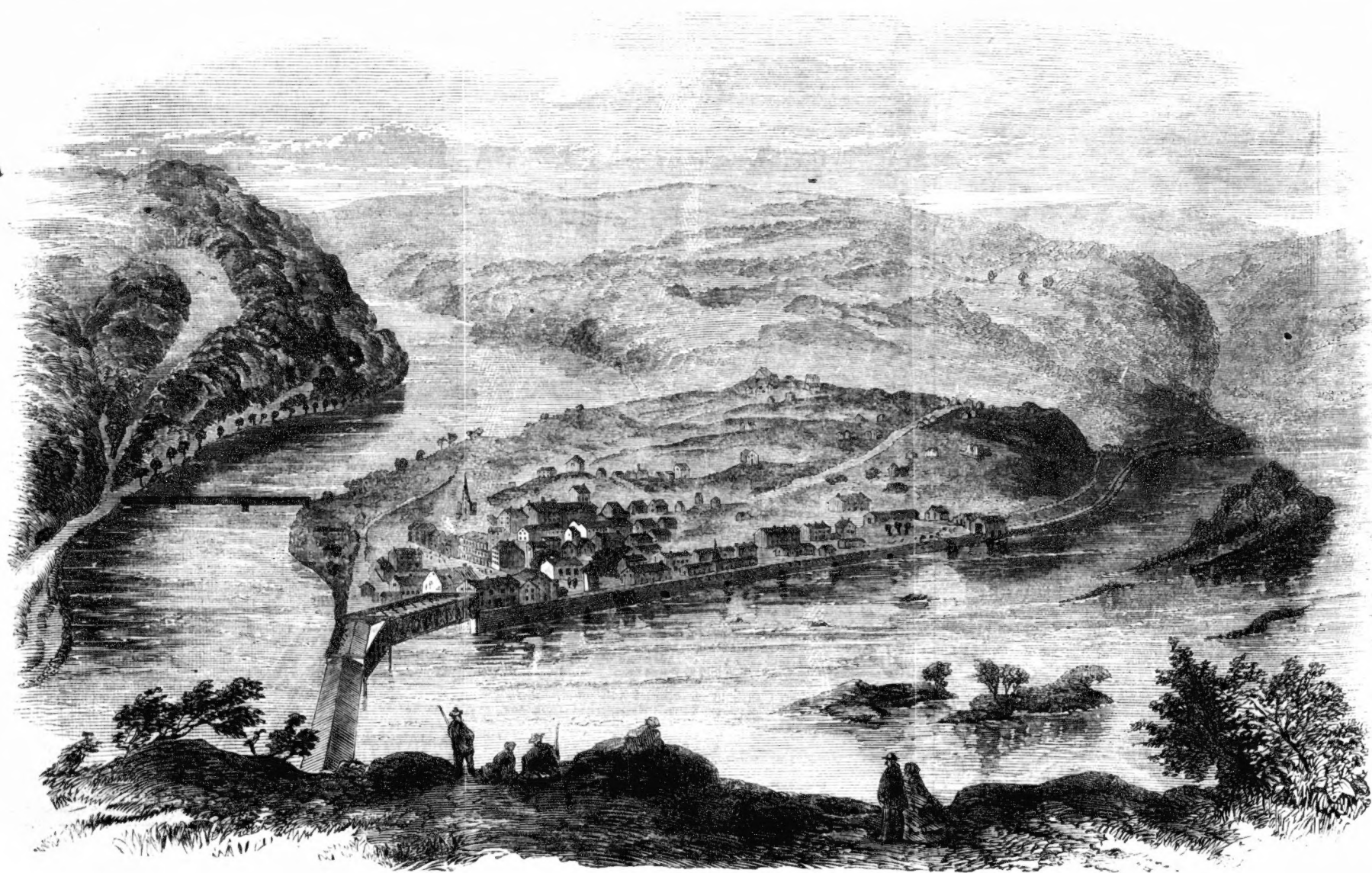


"OSSAWOTTAMIE BROWN," THE LEADER OF THE HARPER FERRY INSURRECTION.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)

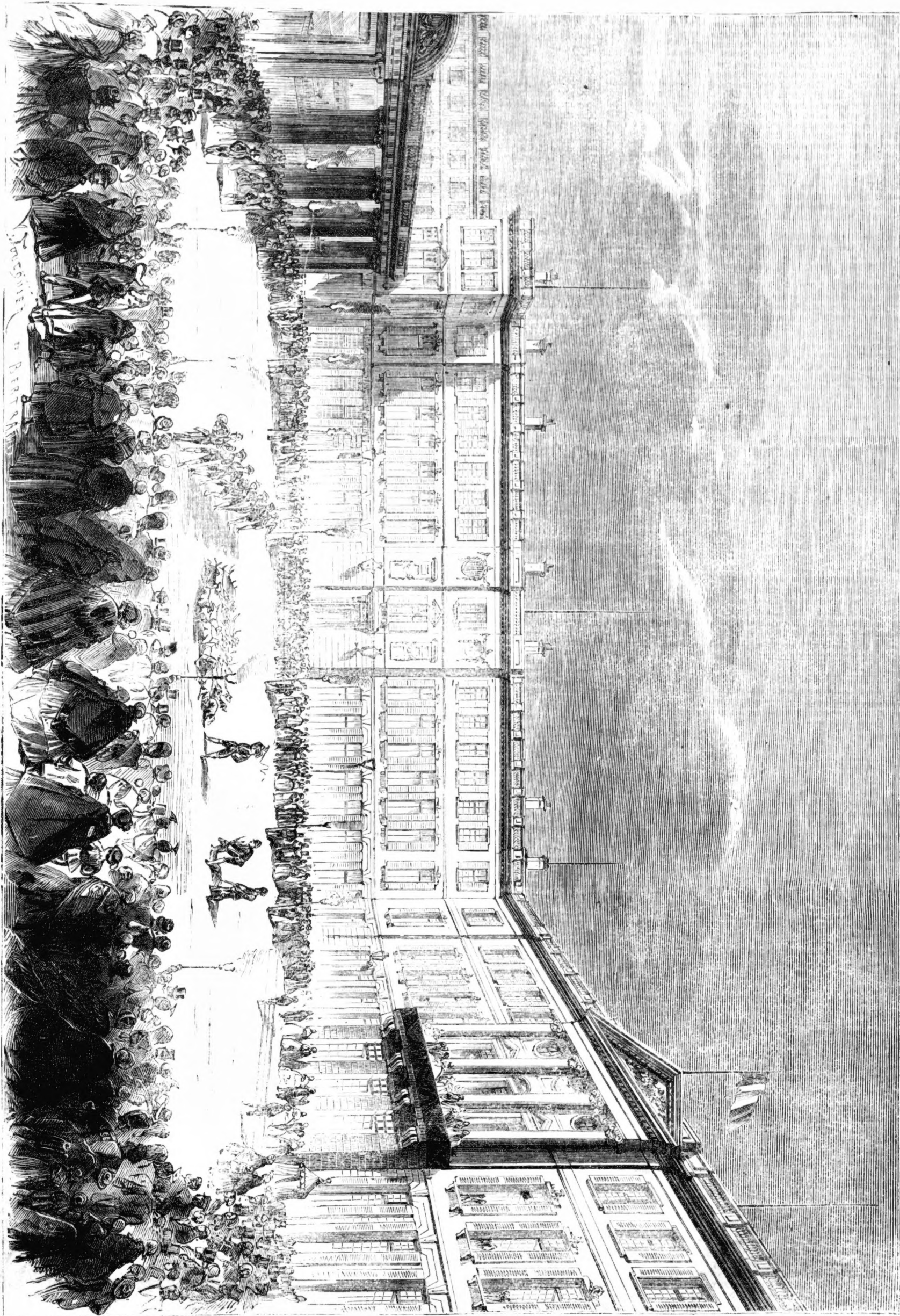
he had concealed in the timber, ready, at the proper moment, for an attack on the flank of those who might reach the ravine alive. Colonel Sumner, with a squad of dragoons, came down from Fort Leavenworth and prevented the fight, disbanding both parties, after which the Colonel was heard to remark that his interposition was a fortunate event for the Missourians, as the arrangements and preparation made by Brown would have ensured their destruction.

Harper Ferry is a singularly beautiful spot at the entrance of the Alleghenies, where the great rivers, the Potomac and the Shenandoah, form a junction, and treat the traveller with the last chorus of many waters before he enters upon the retreats of the mountain range. Thither come the farmers of Western Virginia when they have to enter the lower world; and thither come the Maryland and Lower Virginian slaveholders when they want to pass westwards or to seek a cool temperature in summer. It is just within the Virginian frontier, and precisely where Maryland is narrowest, so that Pennsylvania may be reached in a few hours. Thither came old Brown, a year or more ago, after having buried his sons and laid low his enemies in Kansas, and seen the soil safe from the intrusion of slavery, and put the Missouri people in the way of getting rid of what remained of the curse in their territory. It appears that he believed it to be the duty of his life to go wherever he could most effectually repeat this kind of effort. So he went to Harper Ferry, where, close to Pennsylvania, where the free blacks are very flourishing, he could operate at once upon Maryland and Virginia. If he had wished to raise a servile war he would have gone down into the cotton States; but, as he says, he had no desire to kindle such horrors. He wished to free the slaves without bloodshed—that is, by running them off. For a year he lived, with two or three coadjutors, at a farm near Harper Ferry, maturing his schemes, and collecting arms and other resources for holding the ground while the negroes ran. The place is now the most exciting station on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The passengers, as the trains stop, peer eagerly out of the windows. The sale of pikes has become a regular business, and the prevailing cry, for a time, was "Buy an Ossawatimie!" A "bogus" article of pike was invented by a shrewd speculator in popular frenzies, and pikes costing twenty-five cents readily brought two and three dollars. The railroad company finally interdicted the sale, for it became a nuisance. Every stranger is suspected of being an abolitionist, and meetings are held in the streets to denounce him. The roads are all patrolled vigorously by a ragged militia, the courthouse surrounded by volunteer bayonets, every man is armed to the teeth, and the local papers devote themselves exclusively to the denunciation of the Northerners who happen to be in the town.

We understand that "Old Brown" appealed against his sentence, but the appeal was rejected, and, in all probability, he has by this time suffered the extreme penalty of the law. The day fixed for the execution was the 2nd inst.



VIEW OF HARPER FERRY, VIRGINIA, U.S



THE COURTYARD OF THE PALACE OF COMPIEGNE DURING THE CEREMONIE AUX FLAMBEAUX.

THE PALACE OF COMPIEGNE.

THE town of Compiègne is an extremely ancient town of the Duchy of Valois, and it is now the *chef-lieu* of the second prefecture of the department of the Oise. Its foundation has been wrongly attributed to Julius Cæsar, though the medals and antiquities of all descriptions found in the immediate neighbourhood would lead to the conclusion that the place was already of some importance during the occupation of Gaul by the Romans. Whatever may have been its origin, one thing is certain, and that is that it was a favourite resort of the early Kings of France. Charles the Bald in 876 enlarged and strengthened the town of Compiègne considerably, and gave to it the name of Caropolis. He also caused two castles to be built in the vicinity of the walls, one of which was in existence at the time of Louis IX., who erected another on its site. This latter was successively augmented and embellished by Louis XI., Francis I., Louis XIV., Louis XV., and Napoleon.

In 1413 the Burgundians, one of the two factions that then disputed the mastership of France, gained possession of Compiègne, which was retaken from them by Charles VI. In 1417 it fell into our hands, and we held it till the reign of Charles VII., when we gave it back to France. A short time after it was again besieged by the Duke of Burgundy, and it was in a sortie against the assailants that Joan of Arc was taken prisoner.

The Palace, as it at present stands, is a building of the time of Louis XV., erected from designs by Gabriel. It was here that Napoleon, in the month of May, 1810, solemnised his marriage with Maria Louisa, Archduchess of Austria. Charles X. frequently made it his residence, pursuing his favourite sport of shooting in the park and forest.

Our Engraving shows the courtyard and façade of the palace, with a *carée aux flambeaux* going on, after one of the late grand Imperial hunts.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1859.

CELTIC HYSTERICS.

It has always been an English habit to be comparatively indifferent to the affairs of neighbouring nations. Clarendon, we remember, in speaking of the Scottish movement which virtually began the Civil War, says that up to that time the English had not known much more about Scotland than about Poland. And so, in our own day, it is curious how little Ireland occupies the thoughts of anybody in London who has anything else to think about. Eminent Irishmen descended from British colonists of the country give a certain prestige to it in our eyes; but the Irish proper, the regular Popish natives, are chiefly familiar to us in connection with rebellion, beggary, or funny stories. This is a pity; for if some more active steps were taken to civilise the Celtic Irish we should be spared the nuisance of reading such speeches as those made at the Cork meeting, reported in the *Times* of Thursday. We have a few words to say of this meeting, not on account of the importance of anybody figuring there, but because it was historically curious as a specimen of the kind of scenes which can go on within a few hours' distance from a country like our own.

The object of the assembly was to express sympathy with the Pope, whose temporal power—fortunately for mankind—begins to be thought in danger by his admirers. The state of the Celtic parts of Ireland being remarkably like that of the Papal dominions, this sympathy was natural, and gratitude demanded that so admirable a régime should be supported. Moreover, under British tyranny an Irish Papist has (unlike his Continental coreligionists) the most absolute freedom of speech. The right of the meeting to express admiration of the Government so beloved by those immediately under it was undoubted; and, as a mere matter of taste, the taste for Papal rule is as little disputable as any other. We do not complain of this part of the business; we do not even pity it; it is no more to us than the last news from the Sandwich Islands. But what is really curious is the narrative of what was said when the practical part of affairs began to be alluded to—when the orators touched on the point how his Holiness was to be helped. "Were they to allow the temporal power of the Pope to be stripped from him?" (Loud applause.) This was the question of a Mr. Maguire.

Mr. Bernard Sheehan—We will fight for him. (Loud cheers.)
A Voice in the gallery—And we'll tell Palmerston so. (Hear, hear! and renewed cheering.)

Mr. Maguire—Who are its aggressors?
A Voice—Palmerston and his hell crew! (Yelling.)

The "yelling"—in which department the mass of the meeting were no doubt quite at home—was presently followed by the speech of a Dean Murphy. The Dean proceeded to contrast the Pope with the "monarchs of England," whom he playfully described as "monsters of bigotry, lust, and imbecility." But, it having dawned on his reverence that these were hardly the epithets for her present Majesty, he deviated into truth for a moment by describing her as "an example of virtue." The lapse into veracity was fatal to the remainder of his speech. It seems to have been drowned in a howl, through which a "Voice" was heard to exclaim—

She starved 2,000,000 of Irish! (Groans.)

This charge against the Queen of producing the potato disease exactly suited the calibre of the crowd, and the Dean was silenced. Then came "Mr. Pope Hennessy, M.P.," to the effect that something "more than sympathy" must be shown, which the audience took as an appeal to arms, for a "Voice" shouted "We will fight for him!"

If this meant, in the event of the Congress agreeing, with the consent of Great Britain, that the temporal power of the Pope should be weakened, Messrs. Hennessy and Co. would take up arms against this country, let us prepare for a calamity so terrible. Let us instruct the Irish police to keep an eye on the cabbage-gardens, at all events, if we do no more.

Seriously, what contemptible exhibitions these are! And how melancholy is it that the diffusion of such roaring nonsense throughout Ireland should agitate a poor people whom a reasonable degree of industry would soon put in a fair way of becoming prosperous! For the last few years we have all been in the habit of thinking that better times were in store for Ireland, under the influence of new settlers with capital and industry. The

worst agitators had been transported, and the most wretched of the natives had transported themselves. Ireland was becoming happier by becoming less Irish. Surely this was not all a dream, and we are not to have a new anti-British movement inspired by the troubles into which the Pope's own government of his dominions has brought himself? Mitchel, at Paris, may be harmless; for literary vitriol requires a stronger hand than his to fling it across the sea. But Mitchelism again tried under the nose of our authorities would be too vexatious to be patiently borne.

Nevertheless, let no Government too eagerly resort to coercion. Let us first try a little contempt. Let us also appeal to the thousands of reasonable and enlightened Catholics who detest these vagaries of their countrymen even more than we do, inasmuch as they are obliged to share in the disgrace of them. The most fanatic of the priests are at the bottom of it all, and use "M.P.s" seeking notoriety as their tools. We know the social weight of many Irish M.P.s, and that they are mere creatures of the clergy. But why do not the real gentlemen of Ireland pluck up a little independence, if only to save their order from appearing to be no better than such?

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN, with the Prince Consort and the junior members of the Royal family, left Windsor for the Isle of Wight on Tuesday.

THE DUCHESS OF MALAKOFF expects to give an heir to Marshal Pelissier in February.

PRINCE JEROME BONAPARTE, having been highly pleased with the performance of Madame Viardot in the opera of "Orphée," sent her, the day after he had seen her play, a handsome bracelet ornamented with two antique cameos.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN, anticipating the birth of a new baby, has given 120,000 reals to charitable establishments, and has commenced visiting churches to offer up prayers.

THE KING OF NAPLES has given permission to the French Government to lay down a submarine telegraph between Gaeta and Corsica. Naples will, therefore, very shortly be placed in direct telegraphic communication with Paris, and consequently with London.

THE GRAND DUKE OF TUSCANY intends to pass the winter on his estates in Bohemia.

MR. WATSON, an actor, was wounded at Halifax during the performance of "William Tell" last week. In the second act, where Tell instructs his son in the art of shooting, an arrow strayed from its aim, and deprived Mr. Watson of the sight of one eye.

A SERVIAN, named Moses Paitsch, has published a little book in which he advocates the use for telegraphic purposes of a new universal language entitled "Pasiography." The words are to be formed by the ordinary Arabic ciphers, employed in ingenious combinations.

THE GOVERNMENT has authorized Sir William Crompton to give temporary assistance to the refugees from Morocco at Gibraltar, by affording them a bread ration from the commissariat. The French Government will receive into Algeria those who wish to go there.

MR. BRIGHT will visit his constituents early in the month of January, and attend one or more public meetings before the meeting of Parliament.

IN the "Almanach des Victoires de Napoléon III.," lately published in Paris, there are some curious illustrations representing battles between Zouaves and men in the uniform of our volunteers.

THE MARQUIS DE LAIATICO, a distinguished Sardinian statesman, died on Thursday week at the Clarendon Hotel, Bond-street, after a short illness. The noble Marquis had been only a few weeks in this country. It is stated that he died from an attack of smallpox.

THE CONTEMPLATED JOURNEY OF THE KING OF PRUSSIA to England has again become doubtful, in consequence of his Majesty's health having suddenly grown worse.

THE MARRIAGE AT MUNICH OF IVAN GOLOVIN, the well-known literary refugee, is said to have been telegraphed to the Emperor of Russia; and that his Majesty immediately replied: "My Imperial, paternal blessing. All is forgiven, all is forgotten."

NEWSPAPERS sent to the Australian colonies by the overland route will be charged 2d., instead of 1d., after the 1st of January. A strong agitation is being raised in the colonies against this impost.

A NEW COMMENTARY ON JUNIUS is announced from the pen of Mr. Josiah Parkes. The work is said to contain many new facts and documents in favour of the claim of Sir Philip Francis to the authorship of the "Letters."

JAMES TURNER, who was lately condemned for poisoning his wife with sugar of lead, is not to be hanged, but to undergo ten years' servitude in a penal colony.

THE COURTS-MARTIAL ON THE SEAMEN OF THE *Princess Royal* have resulted in a sentence of three months' imprisonment in Winchester Gaol on one hundred and eight of the men.

THE EMPEROR OF MOROCCO, to lessen the horrors of war, has forbidden the slaughter of troops taken in battle.

VICTOR HUGO has written a passionate letter on behalf of "Old Brown," the Harper Ferry hero. He says that the execution of Brown may establish slavery in Virginia on a firm basis, but it will shake to its centre the entire fabric of American Democracy.

LORD PALMERSTON AND THE EARL OF ELGIN have accepted invitations to a grand banquet about to be given by the Southampton Chamber of Commerce, to celebrate the selection of the port of Southampton for the *Great Eastern* steam-ship.

CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS connected with the election at Louvain, in Belgium, gave rise to a very angry debate in the Belgian Legislature, in the course of which one of the ex-Ministers, Nothomb, openly challenged his successor, Frère Orban, to a duel.

M. MEYERBERG has left Paris for Berlin to resume his duties as chapel-master to the King of Prussia.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF PARIS has just proposed a prize of 6000f. to the first traveller who shall perform the journey from Algeria to Senegal, or vice versa, passing by Timbuctu.

THE NORTHERN REFORM UNION has issued writs against six of the leading supporters of Mr. Marjoribanks at the late election at Berwick for the recovery of penalties for bribing at that election.

LORD BROUGHAM is about to issue his mathematical works in one volume, dedicated to the University of Edinburgh.

THE GOVERNMENT intend, it is said, to enlarge the camp at Shorncliffe by purchasing the land belonging to Mr. Bayly and Mr. Pilcher adjoining, so as to accommodate altogether 10,000 men. Experience has proved it to be the healthiest camp in the kingdom.

ORDERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AT CHATHAM DOCKYARD for 130 more shipwrights and mechanics to be taken into the establishment.

LORD EBRINGTON is called to the Upper House under the title of Baron Fortescue.

SIGNOR MORTARA, the abduction of whose child has created such a stir, is now in London. Having had an interview with the Emperor Napoleon, he has now visited the metropolis of England to induce the British Government to bring his case before the forthcoming Congress on Italian affairs.

A CHILD, belonging to Angus Mackay, of Dunn (Wick), was lying in its cradle, when a pig entered the room, and tore the baby's hands and face so dreadfully that the little sufferer died soon after, chiefly through loss of blood.

A FAMILY OF COINERS was captured last week at Manchester while at work.

THE FRIENDS OF MR. MITCHEL, who was reported to have poisoned himself in France lately, appear to have some doubts as to the facts of the case, and have instituted an inquiry.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON intends to hold a special confirmation at the parish church, Fulham, on Christmas Day, at 3 p.m., for the benefit of young persons proceeding abroad, and those who cannot conveniently present themselves at the usual confirmations in the spring.

THE HOTEL DES LONDRES at Rochefort (Namar) has been destroyed by fire. The travellers who were staying there had a narrow escape—the fire breaking out in the night.

THE ADMIRALTY will issue a circular to the Navy in a few days adapting the late regulations of the Horse Guards respecting flogging in the Army to the Naval service.

A SCREW STEAM "gondola" has been launched on Coniston Lake.

ALL THE GRAVEYARDS IN THE CRIMEA (says a letter-writer) are in perfectly good order, with stone walls and ditches round them, and, as there is scarcely a soul here, they are likely to remain as they are. All the inscriptions are quite clear, and they look as peaceful and quiet as though in an English churchyard.

THE TREASURER OF THE ABERDEEN FEMALE SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY has received a donation of £25 from the Queen towards the funds of the institution.

MARQUIS MASSIMO D'AZEGLIO has just published a pamphlet to show that both sound policy and Christian law are in favour of the annexation of Central Italy to Sardinia.

PARIS PAPERS state that the French Government has ordained the systematic gathering of scavengers from the rocks of Normandy and Brittany, to serve as wadding for artillery, for which purpose it serves admirably.

THE CULTURE OF COTTON IN SCINDE has lately been making rapid progress. Wherever the land is sufficiently supplied with water, and not too salt, the crops appear to have been such during the last two years as to afford strong encouragement to the native growers.

GENERAL BOWER died very suddenly, a few days ago, at Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, after having applied arsenic to a large wart on one of his hands. He first cut the wart, and then applied the poison to destroy the roots.

SIR S. RAFFLES' fine collection of Javanese antiquities is to be added to the British Museum.

THE REV. MR. DAVIS, Ordinary of Newgate, in his annual report, after alluding to the terror convicts have of solitary confinement, says that among the many committed to Newgate in the course of years, by far the most saucy and impudent, and disposed to insubordination, are those who have formerly been inmates of workhouses.

A BILL is to be introduced into Parliament next Session for the incorporation of Chambers of Commerce and for the establishment of Courts of Commerce and Reconciliation within the United Kingdom. The object of the bill is to provide for the better adjustment of commercial disputes.

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY AND SIR JOHN LAWRENCE were present at a meeting in Cambridge, on Friday week, held for the purpose of promoting the objects of the United British Army Scripture-readers' Friendly Society. A subscription in support of a scripture-reader at Lucknow was opened.

THE FAMILY OF PRINCE CZARTORYSKI, the Polish emigration, and indeed the whole of Poland, has suffered a painful loss by the death of the Princess Anna Sapieha, mother-in-law of Prince Adam Czartoryski. This noble lady breathed her last in Paris, on the 26th ult., in the eighty-sixth year of her age.

THE MARQUIS OF WATERFORD has offered £300 reward and ample protection, "in this country or anywhere else that he or she may reside in," to any person who will discover, and bring evidence to convict, the incendiaries who fired some cornricks of his lately.

THE VENERABLE C. J. HOARE, M.A., who has for many years past been unable to attend satisfactorily to his duties as Archdeacon of Surrey, has resigned the appointment, and the Bishop of Winchester has conferred it upon the Rev. John Sutton Utterton, M.A., Vicar of Farnham.

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL was held last week to take into consideration the defenceless state of Harwich harbour. It was agreed that a memorial should be forwarded to the Government on the subject, showing the necessity for further fortifications.

MR. BROOM, gardener to the Hon. Society of the Inner Temple, has just had presented to him a handsome silver snuffbox by the Tower Hamlets Amateur Chrysanthemum Society, "as a mark of respect for his services to them."

THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE has adopted an amendment to its laws which removes the disability to receive the testimony of Atheists in its courts of law.

THE INHABITANTS OF BANBURY have erected a cross to perpetuate the memory of the marriage of the Princess Royal of England with Frederick William Prince of Prussia.

THE 84TH REGIMENT, which distinguished itself during the late revolt in India, was entertained last week, by the whole of the non-commissioned officers and men now stationed at Sheffield, at dinner.

LORD BROUGHAM left London last week for Paris, en route for his château at Cannes, Var. He appeared in excellent health and spirits, although the labours of his so-called vacation have been greater than those he underwent in the autumn of 1850, when he contested Yorkshire, led the northern circuit, and the agitation for Reform.

WHEN THE LONG ANNUITIES EXPIRE, as they will with the payment of the January dividend, it is calculated that the saving of interest on these and on the annuities which expired the 10th of October will, together, be equivalent to the interest on £40,000,000 of Consols.

MR. SUMNER, the American senator, has returned to New York from his European tour.

SIR RICHARD CROWDER, one of the Judges of the Common Pleas, died suddenly on Monday morning. He was in court on Saturday, and, to all appearance, in good health. Sir Richard was in his seventieth year.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE has awarded Joseph Rodgers, the Maltese seaman, who swam from the *Royal Charter* to the shore with a rope, the sum of £10 and a silver medal for his gallantry.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS FREDERICK WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA left Dover on Saturday for Belgium, en route for Brussels (where they purposed paying a visit to the King of the Belgians), on their return to Berlin.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH has given to M. Aladenize, formerly French Consul at Nice, an estate worth 300,000f., "as a return for the services rendered by that gentleman when lieutenant of infantry to Prince Louis Napoleon, whose cause he zealously supported. The Emperor had already given a handsome dowry to one of the daughters of M. Aladenize."

THE RUSSIAN NAVAL DEPARTMENT is said to have taken up an invention of Mr. Piazzi Smith for making astronomical observations on board a rolling ship, and that the Pulkavie astronomers and mechanicians are now engaged in manufacturing a large free-revolving apparatus for observing altitudes of stars at night without the aid of the sea horizon.

WORKS are in progress by which Chichester Cathedral will be thrown open from end to end, and the space, which hitherto was available only for about 250 adults, will be increased so as to accommodate 700 or 800. On special occasions it is hoped that even 2000 or 3000 worshippers may be received within this ancient building.

A PROMISING RIFLE CORPS is now being organised among the students of the Working Men's College, in Great Ormond-street, under the direction principally of Mr. Thomas Hughes, the author of "Tom Brown's School-days," who has been long identified with the institution as one of its most efficient promoters.

AN EVENT rare in theatrical annals occurred a few days ago at Berlin. M. Ischiesche, of the opera of that city, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his debut. He is a bass singer, and has still a fine voice. The Prince Regent made him a valuable pecuniary present; his fellow-performers presented him with a testimonial; and the bands of the two regiments of the Guard played before his house.

THE *Journal de Genève* says that at a ball held at Laney the dress of a young lady caught fire. She rushed into the middle of the room, her companions, unapprehensive of danger, crowded about her, and in a few minutes five other ladies were on fire! The flames were promptly extinguished in three cases; the other three young ladies suffered dreadfully.

DR. VAUGHAN, the late Head Master of Harrow School, was entertained on Thursday by his pupils at dinner in the Freemasons' Tavern. The chair was occupied by Mr. Charles Currier, and about 250 gentlemen joined in the demonstration. Among those present were Lord Spencer, Lord Radstock, Lord Sandon, Lord Hamilton, Lord Eustace Cecil, Lord Mahon, and Mr. Abel Smith, M.P.

THE *Univers* says it is intended to erect a splendid altar at Cologne to contain the precious relics of Duns Scotus, the great champion of the doctrine of the immaculate conception, which are preserved in one of the many churches of that city. On the original monument of Duns Scotus was the well-known inscription—"Scotia me genuit, Anglia me suscepit, Gallia me docuit, Colonia me tenet."

THE LADIES OF VIENNA, says a journal devoted to Court news and scandal, have just determined upon the abandonment of the use of gloves, which are no longer to be worn in private parties and at the opera, only on the first entrance into the box. "The adoption of rings of real value, attached by a gold chain to the armlet, has given the idea of this change in fashion."

A TRALEE PAPER states that a cat, having been chastised by its owner for some misdemeanour, disappeared. Subsequently, puss stood in her master's path as he was going somewhere from home, and seized his hand, to which she held so firmly that her jaws had to be cut in order to release the hand from her grasp. The would proved so virulent as to cause death.

A FEMALE HEAD, in bronze, was lately found in a field at Villette, near Vienna. It is supposed to have belonged to a statue of the Empress Faustina, wife of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, from that name being engraved beneath a diadem.

H.M.S. NILE IN PERIL.—H.M.S. *Nile* has had to put into Queenstown, owing to damages received in a gale. Her rudder was much injured. "At one time," says the *Cork Examiner*, "when she was in great danger, gangs of carpenters were placed by every main ready to cut away, in order to save the vessel from foundering. The seamen were at prayers, and there was scarcely an individual on board who thought the good ship *Nile* would have been ever able to reach any port."

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

Now, the American philosopher, has a fine "Essay on Compensations," in which he proves that nature is made up of contrasts, and it is no use to quarrel with her. "No creature," he says, "is perfect, but a certain compensation balances every gift and defect." Take an example. You choose a walking stick of black wood, which is lighter, but as you get tired you find that it is not your weight, or it is a metal stick which breaks in the middle. You find him rather dogmatic, somewhat pedantic, not at all self-deny, you think him and choose a milder, more conversational, courteous gentleman, and for a time you are pleased with the man. But soon you are perplexed, and need his advice, and then perceive that he is weak in judgment, and can give no counsel worth anything. Well, reader, when you peruse John Bright's speeches and try to appraise his character, think of this. The nobleman who for Birmingham is rough, no doubt very plain-spoken, but by courtesy and by natural temperament often pugnacious; but he, when with others, abolished the Corn Laws, and will, it is his life and his duty, do another work of equal magnitude in rousing the people, and more economically expended. But we must be contented to let him as he is, and let him do his work in his own way. And, wherever there is a great work to be done, and a man of ability to do it we must always let him do it after his manner. And, further, it is as well to remember that all the noble works of Reform have been achieved by men of his character; by earnest, vigorous, plain-spoken, impetuous, generous men; and not by soft-spoken, amiable, courtly gentlemen. The old prophets were not choice in their words. Martin Luther was by no means of the kid-glove school. He handled abuses men too very roughly at times, and often gave people high in authority a lick with the rough side of his tongue; was, indeed, occasionally shockingly personal, and gave great offence to his friends and aristocratic friends; whilst to this day John Knox is considered by many historians to have been little better than a savage. But both these men did grand works in their day. Ah! "blooms must be secured with razors," nor can "cats in mittens catch mice." Melancthon was a pleasant man to live with than Luther; so gentle in disposition, so suave in manner, so quiet and inoffensive; but Melancthon could never have achieved the Reformation.

But though I have written this by way of apology for Mr. Bright, I do not see that there was much fault to be found with his speech at Liverpool. On the contrary, it seemed to me, after careful reading, to be very able, and, on the whole, calm and dispassionate. It is true that he attacked the *Times* rather vigorously, and gave the *Saturday Leader* an ignominious kick; but neither of these papers have any right to complain. They provoked what they got, and richly deserved it. As to the *Times*, I don't believe that since that noted day in January, 1788, when its first number came out, it has ever had such an effective blow planted in its wind "chest." "The employer," said the *Times*, "pays the employed; and he pays them according to their rate of living. If they cannot, or will not, work without beer, spirits, or tobacco, or if they will give their families tea, coffee, and sugar, he has no choice but to give them wages to provide these luxuries." This was the monstrous and absurd doctrine of the *Times*; and how did Bright deal with it? Some people would have set to work to confute this strange fallacy by a lengthened logical process, but the honourable member for Birmingham chose a more excellent way. He simply added "a carriage and pair" to the list of luxuries, he exploded the fallacy in a moment. The wit of this is admirable. If the editor of the *Times* does not know the difference between *just* and *proper* he ought to go to school again. But he does know it, for during the last few months he has, in column after column, pelted the poor builders on strike with exactly the opposite doctrine. His language to them has been "What fools you men must be; don't you know that the price of labour, like the price of everything in the market, is regulated upon the principle of supply and demand. What blockheads to suppose that you can have ten hours' wages for nine hours' work merely because you wish for it!"

But I must leave John Bright and the *Times*, and hasten to announce the coming of a wonder upon the earth—a wonder, according to the herald of its approach, so grand, so momentous to the inhabitants of our planet, fraught with such astounding revolutions, that one is irresistibly reminded of the portent of which Milton writes, which with "fear of change perplexed monarchs," and surprised that Dr. Cumming has not foreseen the advent of this wonder. Indeed, if the proclamation before me be true, the great Doctor is clearly all in the wrong; for, instead of "coming desolation," here is something that is to prove a real *astrea rebus*, and set all right. Before, however, I divulge the name of this marvel, I must first ask your readers to listen to the language in which the herald announces its approach:—"It will have," he says, "the eyes of Argus; the civilised world will be under its glance." It will be the nation's Gnomon, planted under the eternal sun of Christian rectitude, and will point out the hour reached by British civilisation." It is to be "a purifier of the moral Thames;" so that, instead of its impregnating the atmosphere with disease and death, it may convey to every homestead the crystal stream of life." And then, again, it is likened to a steam-engine—"Ever since fire and water (says our herald)—the two great forces of the material universe—were brought together on our planet steam existed. It was generated on the hearth of every homestead; the hot sun exhaled it from every lake and stream; but for long ages it served no obviously useful end. It floated away in the atmosphere and was lost, until Watt, with his engine, came. That engine now gathers up this lost power, and makes it do the work of man—grind his bread-corn, manufacture his garments, draw his carriages, waft his fleet, and print his thoughts." And then he goes on to say that, as the steam-engine now "gathers up" the steam, so this wonderful thing will be an engine that shall turn "the world of floating sentiment" of the "most unsophisticated unsectarian progressive Christian men" to some practical account, that shall "gather it up, condense it, and work it; an engine that shall press it into the holy service of humanity, enable it to roll off the mighty burdens that oppress the energies of men in every land, to level the mountains, and make straight the path of human progress in all that is true and righteous, God-like and free!"

I may, however, here venture to hint to the eloquent writer of this grand proclamation that he has made two or three scientific blunders in this wonderful metaphor. Steam is not "exhaled from every lake and stream," for steam cannot be produced until water reaches the boiling point; further, steam-engines do not "condense and use," but use and condense the steam. Condensed steam is water. And again, properly, engines do not work the steam, but it is steam that works the engines. But let that pass. And now I think I hear some of your readers ask "Why, what can this wonderful thing be?"—"An Argus!"—"A Gnomon planted under the Eternal Sun of Rectitude!"—"A purifier of the moral Thames!"—"An engine that shall gather up floating sentiments, &c.!" Why, what can it be. Well, not to keep you any longer painfully in suspense, it is a weekly newspaper called the *Dial*. Ah, you may well look astonished. It does appear a ludicrous descent from all this high-flown eloquence to a mere newspaper. And one cannot help being reminded of that famous couplet quoted by Martinus Scriblerus—

And thou, Dalhousie, the great God of War,
Lieutenant-General of the Earl of Mar;

and of the fable of Phædrus entitled "Parturiunt montes nascitur ridiculus mus." But I say this only as to the appearance of the thing. It may turn out to be all that is promised, and I am bound to say that when I read the imposing list of "mayors and ex-mayors" who have

The real Thames is to be purified by an intercepting sewer. Will the metaphor hold throughout?

the sanction of their high name to the undertaking I am really at a loss, at least, to wait and see before I come to a decision. I have not revealed half the wonders of this portentous paper. They are set forth in the prospectus. After descending in fine long columns on the power of the fourth estate, the writer asks, "Is this exalted power Christian?" and replies, "the saddening answer will be found not merely in the 30,000,000 of sceptical and benighted papers that annually roll their poisonous streams from the British press, but in the irreverent spirit and materialistic character of those whose circulation is even greater, and whose influence is more potent, and imperious." And then, after a line or two in the same style, he tells us that "The great object of our undertaking is to convert this unconverted teacher of the nation, to take this mighty influence from the hands of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and put it into the hands of Christ." And then, on the subject of the ability of the new organ, he says of the "Literature of the *Times*," "There is in it a wealth of thought, a sweep of vision, a richness of language, a graceful aptitude (!), a sportive adroitness, a charming air which indicate genius and culture of no ordinary type." But the literature of the *Dial* is to be far superior to even that of the *Times*, for it is to be "first in journalistic merit." It is all a question, the writer says, of money. The proprietors have the money, and they can command the talent. Indeed, it is hinted that all other papers are to bow to it as a master; but on this subject take the writer's own words, with which I must close, although I have by no means exhausted the grand things which are predicated of this coming wonder:—

Such is the superior newspaper we propose to create in order to raise the moral tone—to Christianize the journalism of England. Are the means adapted? The greater body, the universe through, will ever control the lesser. The great clock in Westminster draws, in its majestic boom, the ring of all the church bells in the metropolis, and tells the hour to millions of men at once. A million small Christian papers, in the technical sense, would have no reformative influence upon the Titans of the press. But send amongst them one that shall appear as a giant in their midst, with more brain and heart, more talent and genius, more truth and right, more moral nobility, and they shall bow to it as a master; it shall work amongst them as Luther among the priests, as Wilberforce among the slaveholders, as Whitfield and Wesley amongst the unconverted pulpits of the land.

Deary, deary, what times we live in! Every day there is something to surprise and agitate us. Yesterday I went to see the prize pigs, and saw a hog three yards long and a yard and more across—one quarter of which will weigh, when it is turned into pork, over 150 lbs. And now here is another monster coming to disturb our tranquillity.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER

"The Key Under the Doormat," produced as a *livre de rire* at the Lyceum, is a very dull version of a bad and immoral French piece with a similar title. The intrigue is purely French, and totally unintelligible to an ordinary British audience, who, by-the-way, seemed equally at sea as to the demerits of the acting, as they applauded with vigour a very bad performance. Mr. Rouse, the new low comedian, is vulgar and provincial to a degree.

Those who like to see a male dancer in a low necked muslin dress and short sleeves will be gratified by the exhibition of a M. Espinosa, a Jewish gentleman with a great Continental reputation, who is now at the Princess.

The Campbell's Minstrels are at St. James's Hall: though not so good as the "Christy's," they are yet amusing. Mr. Mackney, who seems to have taken the place of Mr. Ross in music-hall ubiquity, is also there, and seems a general humorist.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

THE *Dublin University* has its usual amount of general literature, but sadly wants some leading serial to give interest to its pages, the only story of the kind now publishing in it, called "Artist and Craftsman," being, truth to tell, somewhat heavy reading. Judge Halliburton's sketches in "The Season Ticket" are, of course, smart and racy, but, after all, they are merely sketches, and readers of the *Dublin* have been accustomed to look for a continuous story by Mr. Lever or some equally popular novelist. Where are those sketches by Mr. Sala, to be called "Streets of the World," of which we heard talk at one time? By the way, there is promise of a new tale, "Vourez the Dane, Count of Elsinore," rather a Mrs. Ratcliffe-ish title. The best papers in the present number are a description of a Nottingham lace-manufactory, under the quaint title, "Qui Laboret Orat," a review of Dr. Vaughan's "Revolutions in English History," and a good political article on the present situation of England, France, and Italy. "Homeward Bound," a return tour through Piedmont, Switzerland, Germany, and Holland, takes us over well-known and oft-described ground without any particular novelty of treatment. An article "On the French and Italian Nobility" is written with much perspicuity and shrewdness. For instance, here is a capital sketch of the young French noble:—

Let us take as the type of young French provincial nobles the physical and moral measure of the only son of Le Marquis (et la Marquise) de Mouselineville, whose property and position entitle him to rank with a British baronet, vegetating remotely on £2500 a year. If the laws permitted entail the boy's inheritance would be a handsome one; but the property must be divided between him and his sisters. The lad is low-sized, with thick shoulders and thin legs. He has a stunted look, and his physiognomy, contracted features, and muddy complexion, partake of it. There is no freedom in either his make, gait, or manners. From childhood to manhood, if he can be said to enter this state, he has been brought up by women and clergymen. During the period when an English boy of rank would have faced through the lower school of Eton, or been bullied into manliness at Rugby, the young noble *Francis* has studied under the unwelcome direction of an abbé, and recreated himself by pacing the straight gravel walks of the paternal garden, hand in hand with his preceptor. Not a bed in this formal place has been more carefully tended and sown with vegetable seeds, than his mind has been kept from ill influences. But when he becomes a man he will still be an animal; and, having never learned to know evil, will be able to cope with it. His physical qualities are also undeveloped. If his parents venture to risk their only son by letting him go to the town (*lycée*) or college, he plays at darts in a walled-in court, and parades the road with his fellow-students in livery, like a school-girl, at an age when our lads are at cricket or boxing, "foot and eye opposed in dubious strife," or kicking footballs and fools in their jolly playgrounds. His holidays little resemble our lads', in ranging the country freely, and in such merry intercourse with brothers, comrades, and the world at large as a boy may enjoy, and such as we old boys delight to recall to mind by reading "Tom Brown's School-days." If it may be said of young Monsieur—

Heaven's rich instincts in him grew,
At foot-loose as woodland nooks
Send violets up, and paint them blue,

he is, nevertheless, very green. In fact, religion, *ad quod religio*, enters rather too much into his education, while it comparatively enters too little in England. The conqueror on the field of Waterloo used to say he learnt to gain that battle in the Eton playground; and, manifestly, a public school is the best school of the inevitable war, or battle of life. In France there are no universities equivalent to Oxford and Cambridge; so, at the period of youthful peril, when our "men," as they call themselves, with noble globules in their blood, enter into manly existence in the universities, and, as they say, "take it out of themselves" at rackets or pulling an oar on Cam or Isis—the jeune Vicomte Mouselineville is playing bagatelle or the piano in his mother's drawing-room.

There are some pretty verses in the *Dublin*, notably a little set called "Christmas," by Mr. Mortimer Collins.

The *Universal Review* fully maintains the excellence with which it started, and to say so much is to give it high praise. There is always an even average amount of capital writing, and shrewd, unbiased thought, expressed in unexaggerated terms, to be found in its pages, and it holds a place midway between the solemnities of the quarterlies and the frivolities of the monthly magazines. The principal feature this month is Mr. J. C. Jeaffreson's essay on "Literature and Criticism," which is very clear, very sound, and very plain-spoken. All that the writer says about the self-confidence of young critics, the pernicious influence of publishers on review-writers, the manner in which people in society without the slightest competency for the task constitute them-

selves oral literary critics is perfectly true, and cannot be too often repeated, when put in so modest and gentlemanly a manner. Equally true and graphic is his description of the manner in which newspaper criticism is often performed, though it is, perhaps, questionable whether Mr. Jeaffreson should have bared the secrets of the craft so plainly as in the following passage:—

To judge correctly and hastily on matters of taste is an impossibility, save where the works to be judged of are so thoroughly bad as not to deserve a second glance, in which case there is no need for a professional censor to deliver any judgment at all. But the practice of newspaper-critics scarcely merits a crime on four for detection. As soon as his eye has skimmed over a book he must dip his pen in the ink, and dash down his opinions on slips, as fast as his fingers can move, for the printer's devil, who will in all probability be knocking at his door for the article ere it is half done. The editors of critical journals act on the plan of regarding every new book as a piece of literary news, from which it is their business, with all possible speed, to extract the most interesting features, and usher them reeking from their presses to the world. Not long since we derived much amusement through our friendship with two rival editors of papers (who were having a somewhat warm contention, by hearing them depreciate each other). The drollery of the affair was that their animosity always took this form: A. used in confidence to assure us that B. was running his paper by being behindhand in reviews. B. in the same spirit used to say to us, confidentially, "You know A.'s paper can't last; it's always behindhand. Why, this very week, books are reviewed in it that were noticed in mine a fortnight before." These good gentlemen thought their duties, as editorial critics, were performed so long as they raced against each other, to see who should review a book—not best, but first. The worst of this system is, that the best authors get worst reviewed. Just in proportion as a writer is powerful and celebrated, his book is an exciting piece of news that the public are dying to be informed about. A critic may have a month to read and consider an unknown author's novel or tragedy, but a week must not elapse without Mr. Carlyle or Mr. Tennyson's new work being noticed. We have often ourselves had a book sent us, with a request that a review of it might be written in a time that was insufficient for the proper perusal of one-fourth of the work. The only way in which even a conscientious writer can perform such a task is this: he must skim rapidly over what seem the most interesting chapters, mark out for reprint any light anecdotes on which his eye falls, give a hurried sketch of the subject of the work drawn from previous study rather than the author's text, then throw in the extracts, and finish up with some complimentary platitudes on the style.

There is also a most interesting article on "German Rogues and Vagabonds," founded on Dr. Lallemand's remarkable book, "Das Deutsche Gannethum," containing a great deal of curious and amusing information hitherto totally unknown in England. A paragraph from the paper is well worth reproduction:—

Some of the doctor's anecdotes about London stragglers appear to be more curious than veracious. He tells one very strange story about "Tom Taylor" (*sic*), whom he describes as a well-known larcenist, and who committed his thefts in playhouses. We thought at first that there was some hidden meaning in this; in fact, that it was heavy German satire directed against one of the best known of our "clappers" from the French, but, as the persons robbed by Dr. Lallemand's "Tom Taylor" are all Englishmen, we are compelled to abandon the supposition.

A review of the "Virginians" is also noticeable from the admirable manner in which Mr. Thackeray's literary career is analysed, and from the strict impartiality dealt to his last novel.

The *Constitutional Press* flourishes, and deserves to flourish. It has discarded the wild rhapsodies, the bitter personalities, and Billingsgate of its youth; and, while the vigour of its sarcasm and the strength of purpose has in no way declined, it has got rid of its foul tongue and blustering manner. Those papers which will attract most attention in the current number are a stinging diatribe on Lord Canning's Administration of India, very pointedly and cleverly written; and a good story, "Murder will Out!" The "Suppers of the Tories" are renewed: from them I extract this very sweet little song:—

O it was sweet! O it was sweet
To watch in the dance those gay young feet—
And to hear the laughter ringing wild
From the merry lips of that darling child—
That girl serene, who scarce seventeen
Happy summers on earth had seen.

O it was rare! O it was rare
To smooth the folds of her chestnut hair,
While she murmured some old ballad rhyme,
In the summer eve, which is love's own time,
Her head at rest on my loving breast,
And the sunset dying athwart the west.

O it is sad! O it is sad
To think of the joys that once I had;
To wander lone over land and sea,
And know that she waits no more for me!
This tress of her fair soft chestnut hair,
Is all that the cruel grave would spare.

The *English Woman's Journal* continues its career of active usefulness, and pleads as vigorously, as earnestly, and as truthfully as ever the cause of those doctrines which it was established to support. Specially interesting in the present number are the contributions of correspondents, "Letters on the Employment of Women." The purely literary portion of the periodical is scarcely so good as usual.

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND AND MR. BRIGHT.

THE Duke of Rutland presided at the annual dinner of the Leicestershire Agricultural Society on Friday week. In his speech on that occasion he touched on the state of our relations with France. He said he shared none of the apprehensions so generally entertained; for, if the Emperor of the French had ever seriously contemplated the invasion of this country, a man of his sagacity, of his foresight, and of his intellect, would not have allowed the opportunity to slip that was presented to him during the time of the Indian mutiny. "At the same time," said the Duke, "as it is possible to land an enormous army in this country in a few hours, for God's sake let us call out the militia, encourage the rifle corps, and do all we can to make ourselves safe."

The Duke had also something to say about Mr. Bright's scheme of taxation. He said:—

Mr. Bright made a speech yesterday evening, and by that speech I collect that, although the agriculturists are not any longer to have any political power, as far as I can understand the mass of figures with which he overwhelmed his Liverpool audience, he does not contemplate, while he relieves us from all responsibility and all power, that we should be relieved from all taxes. . . . Mr. Bright talks of doing away with all indirect taxes, and he mentions a great number of them; but I remarked that he never alludes to the malt tax, which is an indirect tax of a very large amount. This is not the place, the time, nor the opportunity to meet the arguments of Mr. Bright; but perhaps you will allow me generally to state my own conviction that direct taxation is the very worst taxation you can have; that it does press upon the poor, not directly but indirectly; that it crushes the springs of prosperity and industry; that it drives capital abroad; that it reduces the wages of the labourer, and that it is paid by the honest and evaded by the dishonest. I would also make this further remark on Mr. Bright. In all his speeches he has held up America as the model that we are to copy. Mr. Bright says, "It is very hard"—he is always very plaintive if you don't agree with him—"that you take your inventions from America; if they invent a new gun, you have no difficulty in adopting it; if they build a new boat on better lines than your own, you have no difficulty in adopting it; but the moment I say adopt their republican institutions, you fly off and say, 'We have a constitutional monarchy that we think gives us more liberty than any State we know of.'" But if you adopt the one, he says, why not adopt the other? Mr. Bright forgets, however, that one of the main distinctions between this country and America is, that while we raise our revenue partly by direct and partly by indirect taxation, America raises the whole of her revenue by indirect taxation. Mr. Cobden, who, I am sorry on account of the cause, was not able to be present at Liverpool yesterday, has lately been to America; but I doubt whether with his eloquence he has been able to persuade the Americans to give up one jot of the protection which they give to their manufactures in that country.

The Duke thus concluded his speech:—

I am old-fashioned enough to think the most important thing in this country is the production of bread, and beef, and beer; and I am also old-fashioned enough to think that the more we can raise in our own country, whether by means of associations like these, or by whatever means may be suggested, the more we shall conduce to the happiness, the welfare, and the morality of the labouring people of this country.

SELF-ACTING TIDE, PILOT AND BEACON LIGHTS.

ELIZABETH CASTLE, formerly the principal stronghold and defence of Jersey, is built on an outlying rock that communicates with the mainland by a narrow tongue of land. This causeway is invaded by the sea at high water, which advances rapidly with the flood, and submerges it in a marvellously short time. Numerous soldiers belonging to the garrison of Elizabeth Castle have been drowned in attempting to reach their barracks after the flood had commenced, and this frequent sacrifice of life has drawn the attention of Captain Acklom, of St. Helier's, to some means of obviating it.

Captain Acklom proposes to raise a beacon on the "causeway" or "Bridge of Death," as it is called, from the sad and fatal character attached to it, midway between the mainland and the castle. The construction of the "beacon" would be in the following manner:—

At about the central and lowest point of the causeway erect an iron shears, composed of four supports, two inches in diameter below, and diminishing to one inch above high-water mark; the lower ends to be let into the rock, and leaded (should they chance to fall upon sand, heavy masses of stone to be introduced for the purpose); a sufficiently wide base to be given to the shears to ensure great stability; these iron pillars to be gradually drawn together, and united thirty-five feet above the level of the sands, fifteen feet beyond the reach of the highest tide.

A self-acting apparatus is absolutely necessary, because at the moment, above all others, when the light is most wanted, it would be impossible to approach it, the breakers of a stormy evening, with the wind in shore, rushing over the flats with the velocity of a racehorse.

These iron supports should be tied to each other every six feet by horizontal bars, and the upper ends of the shears falling together at the summit should support a two-foot square iron platform box a foot deep, and from one foot below the centre of the bottom of which would descend a perpendicular quarter-inch thick iron tube two inches in diameter in the interior, and the separate parts of which, being provided with flanges, might be secured to one another, having an iron collar "drawn together," with a screw under each flange, with strong horizontal bars, so as to connect the tubes with the uprights forming the shears. The entire construction would by this means be bound together in one firm mass, offering scarcely any resistance to tide or wave, and at the same time strong enough to bid defiance to a strain very far superior to any trial it would have to contend with in this particular locality, or, in fact, "in any other."

This tube would rest on, and its lower flange be secured to, the top of a square iron cylinder three feet high by two broad, standing upon a rock

flattened, if there should happen to be a rock at that exact spot; if not, a heavy, smooth-topped, rough slab of stone from the quarry (close at hand) to be introduced among the shingle for the purpose, and sunk to the level of the surrounding flats. No sand ever collects on this causeway, and the water would percolate through the stone rubbish to the bottom of the strong cylinder, which would rest upon six short iron legs, its lower edge being within one inch from the slab, the slab to be slightly rounded immediately under the centre of the cylinder, and covered with smooth copper, allowing no sediment ever to remain: the last ripple of the tide

placed in sufficiently close contiguity to communicate its flame to the lower gas threads of the larger burner when released by the tide. The pipe to supply this small burner would enter into the main pipe beyond the apparatus for extinguishing, and would thus be independent of it as to supply. The flash and blaze of the kindled beacon would at once proclaim "Bridge open!" It would stand precisely halfway upon the hitherto fatal track, at the same time a beacon and a refuge. Thence a smaller light over the gateway would act as a further guide to the base of the ascent up to the old castle. Upo

would wash all clear away between the bottom of the descending copper sphere and the floor of the cylinder. This space of one inch, left for the entrance of the rising and exit of the falling tide, to be fitted (each side) with a copper flap, to hang "loosely" by common eye-bolts from the rim above. This flap, opening "outwards" only, would prevent any bits of stone or seaweed (or sand even in any quantity if it existed) entering the cylinder, as it would close with the slightest wash of the sea; at the same time, being pierced with a row of "small" holes, and the lower corners of flaps slightly cut off, the very first of the tide would be immediately admitted. There might also be eight rows of half-inch holes bored round the bottom of the cylinder, two inches apart, and two inches above each other. To prevent the cylinder from being injured by any chance piece of stone, which might be hurled against it, case it up to the first flange, and also lower length of tube (altogether about 9 or 10 feet in height), with old oak or elm plank, in narrow slips, bound round and secured with copper hoops, having holes below to correspond with those in cylinder.

The cylinder would contain an hermetically-sealed copper float, with a flat bottom one foot ten inches in diameter and one foot deep, with a rounded top. This would descend upon the very surface until within an inch of the foundation-stone, being then deprived (by the continued sinking of the tide) of the support of the water; its weight would act instantaneously, through a slight copper rod or thickish wire and small rivet-chain, upon a gas "lever-cock" with counter weight at the other end immediately under the platform. This very simple piece of mechanism would be screened from the action of the water by being inclosed in the box already mentioned—forming, in fact, the floor and bottom of the platform, to open at one side with a sufficiently strong copper lock and key. Upon this platform would stand a powerful gas-reflector lamp with double batwing burner; the cock pressed down by the weight of the "tide-forsaken float," the gas would rush into the large burner, to be kindled instantaneously at a small burner (such as is used in watchmakers' shops, or to seal letters in offices)



RUINS OF GUISBOROUGH ABBEY CHURCH, YORKSHIRE.



CAPTAIN J. E. ACKLOM'S PROPOSED SELF-ACTING TIDE, PILOT, AND BEACON LIGHT, ELIZABETH CASTLE, JERSEY.

the turn of the tide, almost at the very moment the lowest point of the causeway was effected, the lifting of the light and sensitively buoyant copper sphere, with its broad base, would cause the blazing beacon above to flicker; the ball would then immediately float; the counter-weight at the other end of the lever-arm, relieved from the weight of the floating ball, would at once act; the pressure would close the supply-cock in the box under the lamp; and (the gas being cut off) darkness would at once proclaim "Death on the bridge!"

Moreover, it is proposed that there should be a small open work iron-gallery running round the structure, seven feet above spring-tides, and eight feet under the beacon, with a light but strong iron-ladder to ascend by, similar to the one going down into a steam-engine room, running to the ground parallel, and fastened to one of the iron supports. This would be a refuge in case any person happened to be caught attempting to cross the bridge too late, as has often been the case with men of good character, who have braved the danger, rather than be reported as staying beyond their leave: a case of this nature occurred not long ago. It would be equally of the same advantage to any person hurt by a fall on the slippery rocks, or taken unwell. The gallery would be within hearing of the sentry over the gateway of the castle; at any rate, better pass a few hours in such a situation than be drowned.

The "Acklom" Beacon and Refuge on banks or shoals might be protected by a framework of strong piles and cross-beams against any chance collision with boats. Established in such situations as these, it would absolutely require no regular attendance whatever. The very slight expense of the gas would not be worth, of course, a moment's consideration to an English harbour committee; whilst the lights would be most useful in fogs or misty weather.

There is scarcely a limit to the combination possible with colours, in pairs. The distance is not too great. Why should not the boundaries, depths, and passages of the fearful Goodwin Sands be thus defined.

That vast Charnelhouse that ever-greedy monster who, year by year, takes his fatal tithe, in corpse and wreck, of all that passes upon the water. Let the Beacon supports terminate in broad, flat flange-screws turned deep into the sands, and resting, by means of shoulders, upon immense platforms of oak timbers, a three-foot flange or curtain to fall at an obtuse angle outwards from the circumference of the platform, piercing downwards, its edges held together by copper ties, thus, in the form of an inverted shallow tin dish, confining a large portion of the surface of the sands beneath the construction, and preventing its being absorbed (by the separation of the particles of which they are composed) into the treacherous depths beneath, whilst the weight of the Beacon might be enormously decreased, without impairing its strength, by substituting hollow iron supports for the solid, which latter are of use only from their weight, where there is a sufficient foundation. The platform itself would be firmly anchored, fixed upon the surface of the sands by the flange-screws, the number of which, independent of the beacon, might be increased, if necessary, to any extent, each screw giving additional support as well as security. The deeper the screw can be turned the greater must be its solidity from the increasing superincumbent and lateral pressure.

THE RUINS OF THE ABBEY CHURCH OF GUISBOROUGH, YORKSHIRE.

THE following brief account of the former history of this beautiful ruin is taken mostly from "The History of Cleveland." It is there stated that the original building was destroyed by fire in the reign of Edward I., but that soon after the edifice of which our Engraving illustrates the remains was rebuilt with greatly-increased splendour. The endowments were also very valuable, being the impropriations of twelve parishes, with timber rights in Eskdale, near Whitby, and many pri-

vilages of exemptions. At the time of the surrender of all religious foundations to Henry VIII. the yearly revenue amounted to £712 6s. 8d.

The abbots and priors are reported to have maintained an almost prodigal hospitality, and members of the noble families of Percy, Neville, Bulmer, Strangways, and many others having castles and residences in the neighbourhood, were almost constant guests. They were not, however, unmindful of the rights of property, for connected with the abbey were a hospital for twelve aged inhabitants of the township, and also a free grammar-school, both of which remain in active operation to the present day, as if to show that men's good deeds are not always "buried with their bones."

These ruins are also worthy of notice from the fact that the restored cloisters of the abbey have been selected to represent one style of Gothic architecture in the Mediæval Court of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham.

The beauty of the country round Guisborough has been much dwelt upon by Camden and Drayton, the views from the surrounding hills being favourably compared with the south of Italy; and it is true that few parts of England are so rich in all those objects which interest at once the archaeologist and the pleasure-seeker.

LAW REFORM IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA; FESTIVAL TO MR. TORRENS.

THE problem, "how transfers and other dealings in land may be conducted with the same security, economy, simplicity, and dispatch which attends dealings in shipping and in stock," has been solved in the colony of South Australia.

We have received a pamphlet, published in that colony, containing a full exposition of the principles and working details of the measure,



THE TORRENS FESTIVAL AT WOODSIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

and also the annual report submitted to the local Parliament by the Registrar-General, Mr. Torrens.

From these we perceive a remarkable concurrence between the system at work in South Australia and the recommendation of the Parliamentary Commission on registration of title, contained in their report laid on the table of the House of Commons in May, 1857. The method of conducting transfers, mortgages, leases, &c., &c., is nearly identical with that proposed in the bill introduced last year by Sir Hugh Cairns; but the procedure in bringing titles under the South Australian Act, and position of the applicant proprietor after he has obtained certificate of title, differ materially from the scheme of Sir Hugh Cairns.

Under the South Australian system the claims of persons to be recognised as owners of the fee are examined by solicitors specially retained for that purpose, and, if the evidence submitted be sufficient *prima facie* to show, at least, a good holding title in the applicant, the claim is advertised in the public papers, and otherwise notified. If any adverse claim be lodged within the period prescribed for each case specially by a board styled the Lands Titles Commissioners, the question at issue is referred for settlement to the ordinary tribunals of the country. But if no such claim is lodged the Registrar-General issues to the applicant in exchange for his old deeds a certificate of title which secures him immunity against actions of ejectment, but leaves him liable for payment of compensation in money to a rightful heir, or other person debarred by the operation of the Act from pursuing the remedy by action of ejectment: such compensation, however, is never to exceed the value of the land at the date of issuing the certificate of title, and must be claimed within five years.

This liability attaches only to the person to whom the first certificate is issued, and does not follow the land into the possession of a purchaser or mortgagee; and an assurance fund is created by a small percentage on the value of land brought under the Act from which rightful heirs and other claimants are satisfied in the event of the death or insolvency of the first certificated proprietor.

The South Australian system appears in these respects superior to that suggested by Sir Hugh Cairns. In the first place, the judicial tribunal is resorted to only in exceptional cases where the title is disputed, and thus an expense which constitutes a serious objection to the measure prepared by Sir Hugh Cairns is avoided. Secondly, the holder of the first certificate of title under the South Australian Act

stands in a comparatively advantageous position, for, though liable to a rightful claimant for pecuniary compensation in the event of error, he is not subject to deprivation of capital invested in buildings and improvements. Thirdly, the South Australian system secures to the rightful heir the value of his inheritance, all to which in natural justice he is entitled, whereas, under the measure of Sir Hugh Cairns, a rightful heir is deprived of all remedy if the person to whom certificate of title may have been issued in error has sold or mortgaged the land *bona fide* for valuable consideration.

The machinery by which registration of title is worked in South Australia claims especial notice. Hitherto, as pointed out by Lord St. Leonards in his handy book, the enormous accumulation of instruments, and the cumbrous index required, have proved fatal objections to registration.

The system which Mr. Torrens has devised, and succeeded in bringing into practical operation, is free from these objections. Mortgages, leases, and other interests less than the fee simple are transferred by indorsement, and, whenever the fee is transferred or devolves by operation of law, the existing certificate of title is surrendered and cancelled, and a fresh certificate issues to the purchaser or other person entitled. By this means one instrument, and one instrument only, is extant for each estate or interest in any piece of land.

The register-book is composed of the duplicates of certificates of title. Each of these constitutes a separate folium, on which are recorded the memorials of all transactions affecting lesser estates in the same land, with reference by number to the deposited duplicates of the instruments evidencing these lesser estates. These memorials are also recorded on the counterparts of certificates of title in the hands of proprietors. All counterparts, whether of certificates representing the fee, or of instruments representing any lesser estate, bear upon them the volume and folium of the register-book, constituted by the certificate of title, and which, by the memorials referred to, affords notice of all that it concerns a purchaser to know respecting the title.

The memorials on the counterpart certificates render reference to the register-book unnecessary except on rare occasions; and on these the instruments evidencing title indicate the proper folium of the register-book, and thus the index may be dispensed with altogether. It appears that an index under names is kept up, with a view to facilitate discovery of property of deceased persons intestate, or of fraudulent insolvents.

From our colonial files we learn that the "Torrens System of Conveyancing by Registration of Title" is likely to be adopted in New Zealand, Victoria, and other colonies in the Australian group. That the South Australians are alive to the great benefits secured to them by this measure is evidenced by the honours bestowed upon its author.

We give a Sketch exhibiting his entry into the township of Woodside—the last of a series of demonstrations of like nature. The scene is thus described in a South Australian paper:—

On Tuesday, September 13, the inhabitants of the Onkaparinga district living in Woodside and the surrounding country gave a grand entertainment to Mr. R. R. Torrens. The party invited from Adelaide consisted of Mr. Torrens, Mr. Hector, and Mr. Tinline, as the principal officers of the Lands Titles Office, accompanied by the Hon. W. Milne and Mr. W. Townsend, members for the district of Onkaparinga; and by the Hon. A. Forster, Mr. Mildred, M.P., Mr. Barrow, M.P., and the Rev. Mr. Ross.

On arriving at the Bridgewater Hotel, below Crafer's, they were met by two horsemen, habited in white coats with red seams and shoulder-knots, each carrying a pink and white flag, decorated with ribbons. The convoys immediately placed themselves at the head of the party and led the way. On nearing the German township of Gruntal a really imposing demonstration met the eye. A triumphal arch spanned the road, which was also crossed by various flags and banners, whilst drawn up on the side of the causeway were a hundred well-mounted horsemen, flanked by a large number of persons in vehicles of every kind and description, most of which carried gaily-coloured flags, one elaborately-painted banner being very conspicuous. From Oakbank to Woodside the road teemed with equestrians, pedestrians, and charioteers, the township of Woodside itself being decorated in a manner befitting the grand terminus of the march. Here also was a magnificent arch, bedecked with flowers and covered with inscriptions, and here, also, were music and firing.

The dinner that took place in the evening was attended by about 180 persons, the large room at the inn being extended by a temporary erection adjoining. The Hon. W. Milne occupied the chair, supported on his right and left by the guests from Adelaide, Mr. Lauterbach filling the vice-chair. The dinner was very well served, and the attendance prompt and cheerful. Of course all the loyal toasts were enthusiastically drunk, after which there was the usual amount of speechifying.

Mr. Torrens, in responding to the toast of his health, said that that was the thirteenth entertainment of the kind which he had attended, and that his public duties in connection with the Real Property Act required him now to desist from attending further demonstrations of the kind. In the course of his remarks Mr. Torrens drew forth loud and long plaudits by stating that on an average of the last six weeks the fees received at the Lands Titles Registration Office covered the whole of the expenses of the department, and that the office was already doing one-fourth of the entire conveyancing business of the colony. In concluding this brief sketch we can only say that if public enthusiasm, manifested in various parts of the colony, and by large numbers of respectable and influential settlers, be any guarantee for the success of the Real Property Act, Mr. Torrens' excursions have placed its success beyond a doubt.

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.

THE Smithfield Club held its sixty-first anniversary this week, with an excellent show. Not a coarse or plain beast was to be found; and but few animals in any department of the exhibition wanted that refinement of form which manifests the breeder's judgment as well as the feeder's cost and care. There were not so many butchers' animals sent to chance a fancy market in the showyard; and the excellence of the exhibition was still further raised by the stock of several crack local owners who had not ventured to Baker-street before.

The gold medal in the oxen and steer classes went to the animal that won the same distinction at Birmingham in the past week, and the gold medal in the cow and heifer classes likewise went to the heifer which achieved the victory at Birmingham. Mr. Shirley's steer is a surprising animal in beauty and proportions at such an age—two years six months twenty-seven days; his girth is 8 feet 7 inches, and the quality of his flesh is exceedingly good. Lieut.-Col. Townley's heifer, young as she is (three years and seven months), is amazingly fat, but cylindrical and marvellously well-proportioned in form. All tendency to a narrow chine—the characteristic defect of the short-horn breeds—is lost in an unparalleled outspreading and spreading of chine, shoulder, and rib; her girth attaining to no less than nine feet one inch, while the breadth of her chest, giving that expansion and capacity of lung showing strength of constitution, is really extraordinary, her fore legs being just one foot five inches apart. The great Durham ox, the wonder of half a century back, and one of the grandest presents ever bequeathed by dame Nature to her agricultural devotees, measured at six years old only seventeen inches between his fore legs, while his mighty girth stretched to a compass of but eleven feet and an inch; and of late years only one or two of the noblest oxen—and, we believe, not any of the fat cows, even of the largest farms—have equalled this pretty damsel of a heifer in the length of her girth.

The Prince Consort, who paid a visit to the Bazaar on Monday afternoon, entered the lists rather strongly both with horned cattle and pigs. A beautiful Devon steer, which took the first prize in his class at Birmingham, took the second prize in his class at Baker-street, being beaten by Mr. Farquharson's large and exceedingly handsome steer. His Royal Highness again competed in the Hereford oxen class, but was met by one of the first animals in the show, belonging to Mr. Heath. In the shorthorn heifer class his Royal Highness showed a very handsome and well-proportioned heifer, which was again beaten by Lieutenant-Colonel Townley's heifer already named.

Mr. Stratton again won a prize in the cow class—another of our most eminent shorthorn breeders, whose celebrated herd, it was said, was produced mainly from a Warwickshire cow, with no proofs of good pedigree except her own personal attractions. The Broad Hinton pastures have sent out animals of that wonderfully straight, rectangular, and handsome form for which the breed is noted, and which have taken nearly five hundred local and other prizes, amounting to between £3000 and £4000, besides seven gold and fifteen silver medals.

The Devons showed in considerable numbers, the Hereford exceedingly good, some specimens deserving especial notice—Mr. Shirley's steer, Mr. Heath's ox, and Lady Foley's and Mr. Naylor's cows—these cows standing respectively as they did at Birmingham, Mr. Naylor's taking first prize, and Lady Foley's second prize. The shorthorn class are well filled, and in exceeding good character. The Sussex, Norfolk, and longhorn breeds were not very attractive, but the Scots, with their dun and shaggy coats, and extended upturned horns, obtained great notice. The polled breeds were good, and there were some excellent Welsh cattle.

As for sheep, the rage is now evidently for a more business-like sheep than the delicate and comely Down—i. e. for a cross-bred, carrying mutton of all the delicacy of flavour and tenderness of fibre of the Southdown upon the robust and noble frame of a Cotswold, and clothed with wool not deteriorated in fineness of staple, though lengthened and augmented in weight by the Leicester and improved Lincoln breeds. The Downs could not well appear in better character than they did on the present occasion; but they were certainly eclipsed by the immense size and ponderous proportions of the cross-breeds. The Leicesters and Longwools showed well, the former in singular variety.

The show of pigs was full, and remarkably good. The Prince Consort took the prize in one class—the small breed.

Although the club limits its attention to the development of fat stock and the encouraging of improved breeds, it has long recognised the value of a collection of agricultural machinery in the galleries appropriated as a mart for manufacturers. These galleries attracted crowds of visitors this year, and much business was done by the various proprietors of reaping-machines, steam-ploughs, chaff-cutters, mills, haymakers, crushers, pulpers, &c., &c.

STATISTICS OF MORTALITY.—M. Carnot, in a letter to the *Journal des Connaissances Médicales*, states that, notwithstanding the undeniable increase of juvenile mortality in France from 1825 to 1855, that country is still in a much more favourable condition in that respect than the neighbouring nations, and than England in particular. To prove this, he furnishes from the data contained in M. Legoy's "Dictionary of Political Economy" the following account of the number of persons between the ages of twenty and thirty who die in different countries in the course of ten years out of a population of 10,000 individuals:—Piedmont, 1545; France, 1560; Styria, 1767; Belgium, 1999; Denmark, 2215; Saxony, 2381; Prussia, 2381; England, 3218. Hence it appears that the mortality of young people is twice as great in England as it is either in Piedmont or France. In the year X (1802), the 108 departments which composed France contained a population of 31,976,313 inhabitants, 5,736,000 of whom were between the ages of twenty and thirty. The number of deaths in the course of the year was 875,490; of these 44,280 were between those ages, thus giving the ratio of 77 to 10,000. And at present this ratio has doubled, being 154 deaths out of 10,000 lives. The same appears to have taken place all over Europe, so that France in this respect is in the same position as it was before, in comparison with other nations. Buffon states that in England the mortality of young people was in the eighteenth century much greater than in France, and so it is to this day.

SMOKING.—The Mayor of Douai, in a circular to the communal schoolmasters, expresses his determination to put down the precocious habit of smoking, which he learns, by the reports of the police, prevails to a deplorable extent among the boys of that city. He therefore desires the schoolmasters not only to mark down for punishment all children whom they may see smoking in the streets, but to search the pockets and portfolios of the scholars from time to time, and to take away all cigars, cigarettes, pipes, and tobacco which may be found. He authorises the most severe punishments, and will sanction any measure which the schoolmasters may devise to check the growing evil.

THE ARMSTRONG GUN.—An inspector of artillery is to be appointed at Woolwich. The duties of this officer will be confined to the examination and proving of the Armstrong and other ordnance manufactured in the Arsenal. This arrangement has been adopted in compliance with the request of Sir W. Armstrong, in order to relieve the duties of his department, which is now busily engaged in the completion of the stipulated number of guns by the end of the year. A new arrangement will then be entered into, by which the department undertakes to turn out three guns per day, to be handed over at that ratio to the proof department, in readiness for service. A complete 12-pound battery of Sir W. Armstrong's guns, carriages, limbers, hospital and ammunition waggons, forges, &c., is packed for transmission overland to China.

OPERA, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

"DINORAH," "The Crown Diamonds," "Satanella," and "The Rose of Castile" have composed the programme at the Royal English Opera during the past week. In a few days Mr. Alfred Mellon's opera, or operetta, of "Victorine" will be produced. The libretto of this work is founded, we understand, not on "Victorine; or, I'll Sleep on It," of Adelphi celebrity, but on its French original, "Victorine ou la nuit porte conseil," the latter being the shorter or condenser production of the two. It appears that in this operetta there is nothing for the tenor—at least not for any tenor of importance. The part of the heroine, as it is given to Mlle. Parepa, is of course written for a soprano; that of the principal male character is for a baritone, and is intrusted to Mr. Santley.

The operatic news from Madrid is peaceful; that is to say, after a great deal of quarrelling and a duel between Mario and the director (in which the gallant tenor received a wound in the arm), the unfortunate amateurs of the Spanish capital at last find themselves compelled to listen to Madame Grisi. Let us hope that nothing worse will ever happen to them; though we believe that those very pretty but remarkably untuneful young ladies, Mlle. Sarolta and Mlle. Calderon, are still engaged.

At the last of the excellent Monday Popular Concerts the instrumental pieces were by various composers, while the whole of the vocal music was selected from the works of Mozart. During Mozart's life, and long afterwards, the comparative merits of the German and Italian composers—which, apart from Court intrigues, formed the basis of the celebrated Gluck and Piccini disputes—were the subject of incessant and obstinate controversy. It was evident, however, to all impartial critics that, while in the vocal music of Germany the air was made subservient to the accompaniments, the Italians erred in an opposite direction and cultivated melody to the exclusion of everything else. The genius of Mozart, by uniting the melody of the one to the harmony of the other, attained the perfection of art; and it was this admirable result which suggested to a writer of the early part of the present century these words:—"Mozart's accompaniments display so great a richness and variety that the most profound musician can listen to their constant repetition with unwearied delight; and his melodies possess such an enchanting simplicity that they are not only admired by the learned, but even

The spinsters and knitters in the sun
Do love to chant them."

Of the truth of the above remarks no better proof could be obtained than in the detached solos and concerted pieces from which the vocal music of the last Monday Popular Concerts was chosen.

Last Tuesday Mr. Ransford was to have given, at the St. James's Hall, for the first time in London, an entertainment called "The Sea," in which descriptions and anecdotes of maritime life are interspersed with nautical songs, selected chiefly from Dibdin. Unfortunately, the popular vocalist met with a serious accident the day before, and the entertainment is for the present postponed.

A new musical entertainment on the subject of English Songs and Ballads, written by Mr. William Chappell, and delivered and sung by Mr. Ramsden and Miss Poole, is being given at the Gallery of Illustration, in Regent-street. Mr. Chappell has written a very elaborate and interesting work concerning "Popular English Music of the Olden Time;" but, to many persons, the mere sight of the music printed in that volume will convey no idea of the melodies themselves; while to hear them sung by Miss Poole will be a pleasure to every one. Mr. Chappell divides the characteristic airs of England into four classes, of which the first and largest includes airs of a smooth and flowing cast—expressive, tender, and sometimes plaintive, but for the most part cheerful rather than sad. The second comprises airs which breathe a frank and manly spirit, often expanding into rough jollity. The third consists of melodies written to historical ballads, some of which are thought to have descended to us from the minstrels. These are of simple construction, and usually plaintive, and the peculiarity which marks them is the long interval between each phrase, rendering them admirably suited for recitative and for the recovery of the singers' breath in the lengthy stories to which they are wedded. In the fourth class are comprised the numerous hornpipes, jigs, rounds, and bagpipe tunes. "On holidays and Sundays," says Mr. Chappell, "after prayers, every parish of moderate size used to assemble and dance on the green, with its own particular piper." Formerly the bagpipe was in use all over England, though now it is happily confined to the North.

The Musical Society of London is about to commence the year, privately, with choral and quartet practice, and, quasi-publicly, with the first of two conversations announced for the approaching season. Four public orchestral concerts will be given, of which the first will take place in the middle of January. Mr. Henry Smart continues to be chorus-master, and Mr. Alfred Mellon conductor.

1. *Santa Maria* ("Dinorah"). By BRINLEY RICHARDS.
2. *Airs from "Dinorah."* By EMILE BERGER.
3. *Air de l'ombre de "Dinorah."* Par MADAME OURY.
4. *Dinorah Illustration.* Par J. ASCHER.
5. *Dinorah*, edited for the Pianoforte. By RUDOLFF NORDMANN. Boosey and Sons.

1. Mr. Brinley Richards has transcribed the Hymn to the Virgin, and the Religious March, and has introduced a short and simple variation in the former of these matines.

2. Mr. Emile Berger's arrangement of the most striking and popular airs from "Dinorah," such as the Cradle Song, the first part of the "Ombre Légère," the "Chant du Chasseur," the "Sainte Marie," "O mon remords," &c., is by far the easiest that has appeared; and for that reason, and because it includes so many of the melodies from Meyerbeer's most melodious opera, will, doubtless, be welcome to a large number of very young students. The youthful playgoer will be further edified by a description of the principal incidents, and a representation of one of the most interesting scenes, both of which are given on the titlepage.

3. Madame Oury's piece is a brilliant transcription, with here and there (as, for instance, when the first subject of the air is written in double notes) an undesirable perversion of *Dinorah's* charming Shadow Song.

4. M. Ascher's difficult "Illustration" is marked by ingenuity, and also by good taste, and it is in all respects the best arrangement of melodies from "Dinorah"—or rather, fantasia, which is strictly what it is—that we have seen or heard. Why, we wonder, does M. Ascher call his characteristic fantasia an "Illustration"? It is true the word has long ceased to have any meaning. We read sometimes in a damp paper that a certain writer is *une des illustrations de la presse Parisienne*. Then there is a journal called *L'Illustration*. In England the word "illustration" is often used (incorrectly, we admit) instead of "example." Pictures and ornamental designs, whether in newspapers or books, are also "illustrations;" and now we find that a piece of music is an "illustration."

5. "Dinorah," edited for the pianoforte by Rudolph Nordmann, is the entire opera, faithfully transcribed—the work forming No. 18 of the "Standard Foreign Operas." This, by many lovers of music, will be preferred to arrangements, fantasies, and "illustrations" of every kind.

FORTHCOMING DIVIDENDS.—*Herapath's Railway Journal* gives the following as the probable dividends of the companies mentioned for the current half-year:—London and North-Western, £2 10s.; Great Western, £2; Great Northern, £3 15s.; Midland, £3 2s. 6d.; South-Eastern, £3; Brighton, £3 10s.; South-Western, £2 17s. 6d.; Lancashire and Yorkshire, £2 10s.; Eastern Counties, £1 10s.; North-Eastern (Bewick), £2 7s. 6d.

THE POISONOUS SAUSAGES.—The inquiry into the death of William Easton, which was supposed to have arisen from eating some sausages containing poisonous ingredients, has terminated in a verdict to the effect that the deceased died from irritation of the bowels after eating certain sausages; but there was not sufficient evidence to show by what that irritation was caused; and the jury were of opinion, further, that there ought to be a greater number of inspectors of meat in the markets of the metropolis.

LAW AND CRIME.

IN the Common Pleas, on Friday week, an action was tried in which an omnibus-conductor sought to recover from a Mr. Archer possession of a diamond ring of the value of £125. It was stated that the conductor, being desirous of investing his capital, purchased of a friend the ring in question, upon the speculation of a probable rise in the value of diamonds. The omnibus on which plaintiff was employed ran from Bayswater to Whitechapel, and defendant's wife was a frequent passenger thereby. The lady—who lived, by-the-way, in a handsome, well-furnished house at Notting-hill, and was accustomed to ride in a brougham—often entered into conversation with the diamond-ringed conductor, and at length invited him to her residence. There, according to the conductor, she represented herself to be a widow, and allowed him to become a suitor for her hand. "Considering that she would eventually become my wife," said the conductor, "I had confidence in her, and let her have my ring. I found after that that I had been made the victim of misplaced confidence." The fact of the lady's married state was divulged, and the conductor asked for a return of the ring. The lady had pawned it, first for £3 10s., and afterwards for £60. For the defence, Mrs. Archer swore that the ring had been given to her in token of affection by the plaintiff to keep for his sake. She deposed: "I told my husband it was given to me. He insisted upon my giving it back. I did not tell him how and from whom I had it." She had lived apart from her husband since the Monday before the trial, and refused to state where she lived at that time. The defendant had paid into court the amount borrowed upon the ring, with interest, and had handed the duplicate order to the plaintiff, who appears to have continued the action to recover compensation for the damages sustained by the detention of the ring. The jury, however, declined to award such damages, and held the amount paid into court as sufficient; consequently the verdict was for defendant. Mrs. Archer, wife of the defendant, and who appears to have been a coarse, middle-aged woman, excited some astonishment in the court by the shameless manner in which she avowed her share in the transaction, and raised a burst of laughter at her indignant protest against being termed "woman" by Mr. Sergeant Parry.

The Smethurst case has at last terminated by the conviction of the prisoner for the crime of bigamy, and his sentence to imprisonment and hard labour for one year. As we have already intimated, the effect of this conviction will be the forfeiture of the prisoner's personal estate, including any benefit to which he might have been entitled under the will of Miss Bankes. For the defence it was endeavoured to set up that the first Mrs. Smethurst might herself have committed bigamy, inasmuch as she had, for some years previously to her marriage with the doctor, passed as the wife of another man, by whom she had had a family. Had this point been established, as Smethurst's first marriage would thereby have been proved to have been void, the prisoner must have been acquitted.

A divorce case was tried on Monday last in which the Marquis of Anglesey was co-respondent. The plaintiff was a Mr. Bell, husband of a lady of considerable personal attractions, as the phrase runs, and with whom the Most Noble Marquis had eloped. Five thousand pounds had been settled upon Mrs. Bell by her husband's father upon her marriage; and Mr. Edwin James, who appeared for the co-respondent, did not resist a verdict of damages to that amount. The jury, however, awarded the plaintiff ten thousand pounds, and decided for the divorce, as prayed.

The public should be put fairly upon their guard against a common trick of the drivers of four-wheel night-cabs. The practice to which we refer is that of carrying upon the driving-box a ruffianly satellite of the cabman. This individual is technically termed a "buck," and his attendance upon the driver is made to answer many purposes. The "buck" takes charge of the cab while the driver beguiles himself in a taproom; he personates a "fare" as an excuse for the driver deserting the regular stand, and plying for hire about the streets. When the fare is set down, it is now the "buck" and not the driver who demands extortionate sums from the passenger and overwhelms him with filthy abuse in default of payment. This course, it will be seen, leaves the victim almost hopeless of redress, as the "buck" is thoroughly irresponsible. Occasionally more criminal offences are committed by the combination of the driver and the "buck." The "buck" is perhaps sent inside to plunder some helplessly-convivial fare, or to insult and terrify a lady passenger. A shocking case of the latter kind has just been made public; but, having pointed out the practice generally, we forbear to enter into details. The passenger or the hirer of the vehicle has the remedy in his own hands, by insisting that the "buck" shall not accompany the driver. By the last Act relating to cabs it is expressly rendered illegal for any person to be carried in or upon the vehicle except with the consent of the hirer.

The woman charged with causing the death of her child at Hackney, by suspending it during the whole night from the rail of a bedstead (under circumstances which we some time since detailed), was last week tried for murder. The jury were directed that, if they should think the act had been committed recklessly and thoughtlessly, without any intention of causing death, they would be justified in returning a verdict of manslaughter. This view of the case was adopted; and the prisoner, having been convicted of the minor offence, was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude.

A poor widow, aged forty, named Sarah Dyer, pleaded guilty to a charge of having stolen some braid and silk ribbon, of the value of about £1, from the shop of Messrs. Shoobred. The counsel for the prisoner stated that a more distressing case than the present had never come under his notice. The prisoner had acted under the pressure of most painful circumstances; and, although the prosecutors had only done their duty in bringing the case before a jury, they hoped that the utmost lenity would be exhibited. The counsel for the prosecution said that the prosecutors had no desire to press for punishment. It was then shown that the unfortunate prisoner had for years past worked as a dressmaker till two, three, and four o'clock in the morning, to support herself and an only son, whom she had apprenticed to a tailor. The prisoner had been driven to crime by the heartless meanness of certain lady customers, who insisted upon long credit, and denied or evaded payment when the poor creature's account amounted to a considerable sum. One residing in Montagu-place, Russell-square, owed the woman about £12; another, living in Highbury-terrace, Islington, was indebted to her in a like amount. Although during a five weeks' illness the prisoner had sent day by day to these ladies, paying only for a portion on account, her appeals were unheeded. She was supported from starvation only by the charity of neighbours, and her rent was in arrear. To proceed against the ladies for the sums due would, it was stated, have destroyed her connection. So that it appears these ladies, to the dishonesty of not paying their debts, are judged by those who know them sufficiently vindictive to ruin the poor wretch who insists upon her rights. The Hebrew middleman is not the only form of the vampire haunting the sempstress's garret; the form of the horrible oppression is sometimes that of a "lady" haunting in unpaid-for finery, and residing in Montagu-place or Highbury-terrace. The Assistant Judge, in delivering his judgment, acknowledged that this case had affected him considerably. "Should what had been stated find its way into publicity, those who had so cruelly used this poor creature by depriving her so long of the reward of her labour would understand what was thought of their conduct. He should pass no sentence, but order the prisoner's discharge at once." The poor woman threw herself upon her knees and thanked him for his mercy. The jury and the Bar made a collection for the prisoner.

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